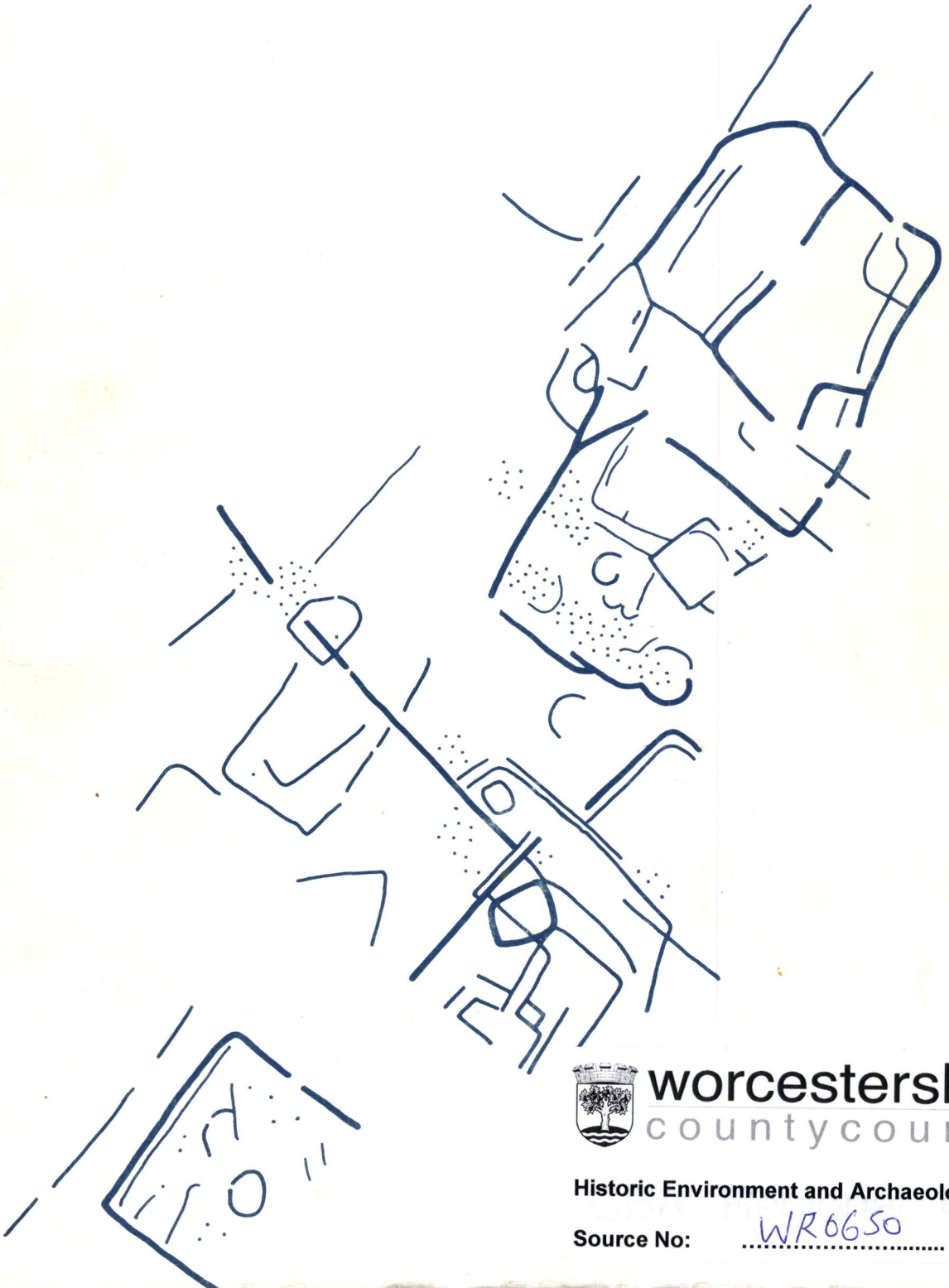
WEST MIDLANDS ARCHAEOLOGY

No. 28 1985



worcestershire
countycouncil

Historic Environment and Archaeology Service:

Source No: WR0650

West Midlands Archaeology No 28 for 1985 was prepared by Jan Wills,assisted by James Dinn and is published by the Council for British Archaeology Regional Group 8, c/o J.Pickin,Warwickshire County Museum,Market Place, Warwick CV34 4SS

Copies may be obtained from the Editor,c/o Archaeology Department,Hereford and Worcester County Council,Tetbury Drive,Warndon,Worcester WR4 9LS
Tel. Worcester (0905) 58608

Cover: Cropmarks of bronze age,iron age and Roman settlement and field systems at Beckford (Hereford and Worcester)

Archaeology Department
Hereford and Worcester County Council
y Drive
ton
ester WR4 9LS
Tel: Worcester 58608

© Copyright CBA Regional Group 8 and individual authors, 1986

ISSN 0141 - 301 X

WEST MIDLANDS ARCHAEOLOGY

No. 28 1985

Editor J. Wills
Assistant Editor J. Dinn

CBA Regional Group 8

Location of work reported

CONTENTS

Editorial

West Midlands Archaeology for 1985 begins with two important studies of the archaeological landscape of the valleys of the Avon and its tributaries. Part of a henge monument has been excavated during the fifth and final season at Wasperton, and at Aston Mill, Kemerton, small scale sampling of an extensive area of the gravel terrace to the south of Bredon Hill has demonstrated funerary use of this area in the bronze age. Both projects provide additions to our extremely sketchy knowledge of the earlier prehistory of the West Midlands. Less encouragingly, Aston Mill has also illustrated the serious threat from ploughing to much of the rural landscape - a threat with which at present we have little means of coping, even on those sites which are scheduled as Ancient Monuments.

The historic centres of many towns and cities were extensively redeveloped in the 1960s with the loss of spectacular sequences of archaeological evidence. The impact of this destruction stimulated the formation of Rescue and created pressure for increased central government funding for archaeology. Worcester was one of the cities in which vital areas of prehistoric, Roman and medieval settlement were most notoriously destroyed, with minimal recording. In advance of a second phase of major redevelopment in Worcester in the late 1980s a programme of site evaluation and excavation has produced exciting new evidence of Roman, post-Roman and Anglo-Saxon activity on the northern edge of the settlement nucleus.

Work has continued on three important long term studies of the castle. At Dudley recording of the standing building has been combined with excavation to elucidate an impressive structural sequence, while at both Hen Domen and Stafford the excavation of the castles forms only a part of projects which are examining landscape through both historical and archaeological evidence. Exploration of a contrasting aspect of the medieval landscape has been taking place in Ludlow, where excavations on the site of the Carmelite friary in the northern suburb of the town have also investigated successive phases of domestic occupation which preceded the foundation of the friary in 1350.

The value of intensive landscape survey is exemplified by work in the Sandwell Valley. The location of this project within the most populous area of the region has, in addition, provided a tremendous opportunity for the presentation of archaeology to a wide audience.

In addition to reporting briefly on the archaeology of the region during the previous twelve months (and the diversity of work undertaken in 1985 is emphasised by the contents of part 2) West Midlands Archaeology provides a forum for discussion. Contributions of thematic or discursive articles have, however, been few this year and readers are invited to offer their academic speculations and interim conclusions for publication in Volume 29.

While recognising the quality and the scope of the work reported this year it should be remembered that there were many potential rescue projects which, although concerning archaeology of undoubted significance, could not be undertaken because they failed to attract resources. In Hereford and Worcester, for example, the most important such project in 1985 was the Evesham bypass, which has cut through an area of intensive prehistoric and Roman occupation. This project, like many others across the country, suffered because of the general shortage of funds for rescue archaeology, and also from the unresolved problem of whether HBMC or the Department of Transport should be responsible for financing the archaeological recording necessitated by trunk road schemes.

It is notable that the work reported in this volume has a broad range of funding, often within the same project. The central government contribution towards rescue archaeology through HBMC is growing proportionally smaller

as financial dependence on the Manpower Services Commission, local authorities, developers and public subscription increases.

Although this broadening of the funding base of archaeology is in some respects to be welcomed, the resources available for archaeology in Britain remain uncertain and inadequate. Despite the success of individual projects in convincing the public of their validity and in raising resources, archaeology as a whole has failed to establish itself in the forefront of public awareness. This remains the case at a time when other environmental issues have, in contrast, benefited from a high level of public interest : "conservation" is still largely equated with wildlife and nature conservation.

Looking forward to 1986, at national level there will be opportunities to improve the protection of the historic environment. The Environment Committee of the House of Commons is to receive evidence concerning the workings of legislation relating to archaeology, and HBMC is to initiate a major programme to increase the number of sites protected by inclusion in the schedule of Ancient Monuments. Success of such initiatives however depends ultimately on the more difficult task of raising the status of archaeology as an important conservation issue and enlisting the enthusiastic support of a wider public.

1 Reports

Excavations at Wasperton - 5th Interim Report
G. Crawford.

A fifth season of excavations took place at Wasperton, Warwickshire (SP 265585) in 1985 (Fig.1.1). In contrast to the previous years, the excavation effort was intermittent, and covered only two small areas. The first of these, as noted in the last interim report (Crawford 1984), concerned the examination of a large circular feature, a 'henge', in Field 3; the second dealt with that stretch of the modern bridlepath which ran across the Romano-British and pagan Saxon cemetery, thus ensuring that a complete cemetery plan was recovered.

The Henge Monument (Fig.1.2)

During the plotting of aerial photographs at Warwick Museum, a large penannular feature, approximately 100 m in diameter, was recognised in Field 3; this did not appear on the plot supplied by the N.M.R. The feature was located by trial trenching and an area approximately 40 m x 45 m was stripped by JCB to reveal about one quarter of the monument. The surface appeared to be heavily truncated. The interior of the monument was deeply scored by medieval furrows. After the removal of the furrows, the 'henge' was revealed as a simple length of curving ditch, broken at two points along its southern edge: there were no internal features. The ditch was of a single phase; it was approximately 1.5 m wide and up to 0.4 m deep. The main entrance was over 3 m wide; the second, 18 m to the east, was 2 m wide. Finds from the ditch consisted of a few sherds of undecorated pottery plus three small sherds of Beaker. No diagnostic neolithic finds were recovered.

A shallow scoop, 2 m in diameter, was observed during salvage recording, 100 m south of the 'henge'. On excavation, it was found to be a shallow depression, 0.2 m deep, with 54 stakeholes running through the fill into the underlying natural. A few sherds of pottery were recovered: they were from crude, handmade, vessels, the fabric of which was different from those of pottery of known 1st millenium date. This pottery may therefore be contemporary with the 'henge'.

The Cemetery

A section of the bridlepath separating Fields 1 and 3 was also investigated. A strip 20 m long x 7 m wide was cleared adjacent to the Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon cemetery, in order to recover the complete plan. Two additional graves, both cut into the northern arm of the boundary ditch of the cemetery, were found. The first measured 2.15 m north to south, 0.85 m east to west and reached a depth of 0.8 m below the cleared surface. The only skeletal remains were tooth fragments, which occurred at the northern end of the grave-cut. At the southern end, a large quantity of hobnails, representing the remains of footwear, were present. Larger iron nails occurred at the north end of the grave, perhaps implying the presence of a crude coffin. A small lead scroll and an as yet unidentified iron object were also recovered. The second grave lay east of the above, almost abutting it. Oriented east-west along the cut of the ditch, it measured 1.8 m long, was 0.65 m wide and approximately 0.8 m deep. Again, the skeletal evidence was confined to tooth fragments, which occurred at the eastern end of the grave-cut. Hobnails were found at the west end, but there were no other gravegoods. Both graves appear to be Romano-British in date. This brings to 200 the number of certain inhumations in the cemetery at Wasperton, which also held 24 cremations.

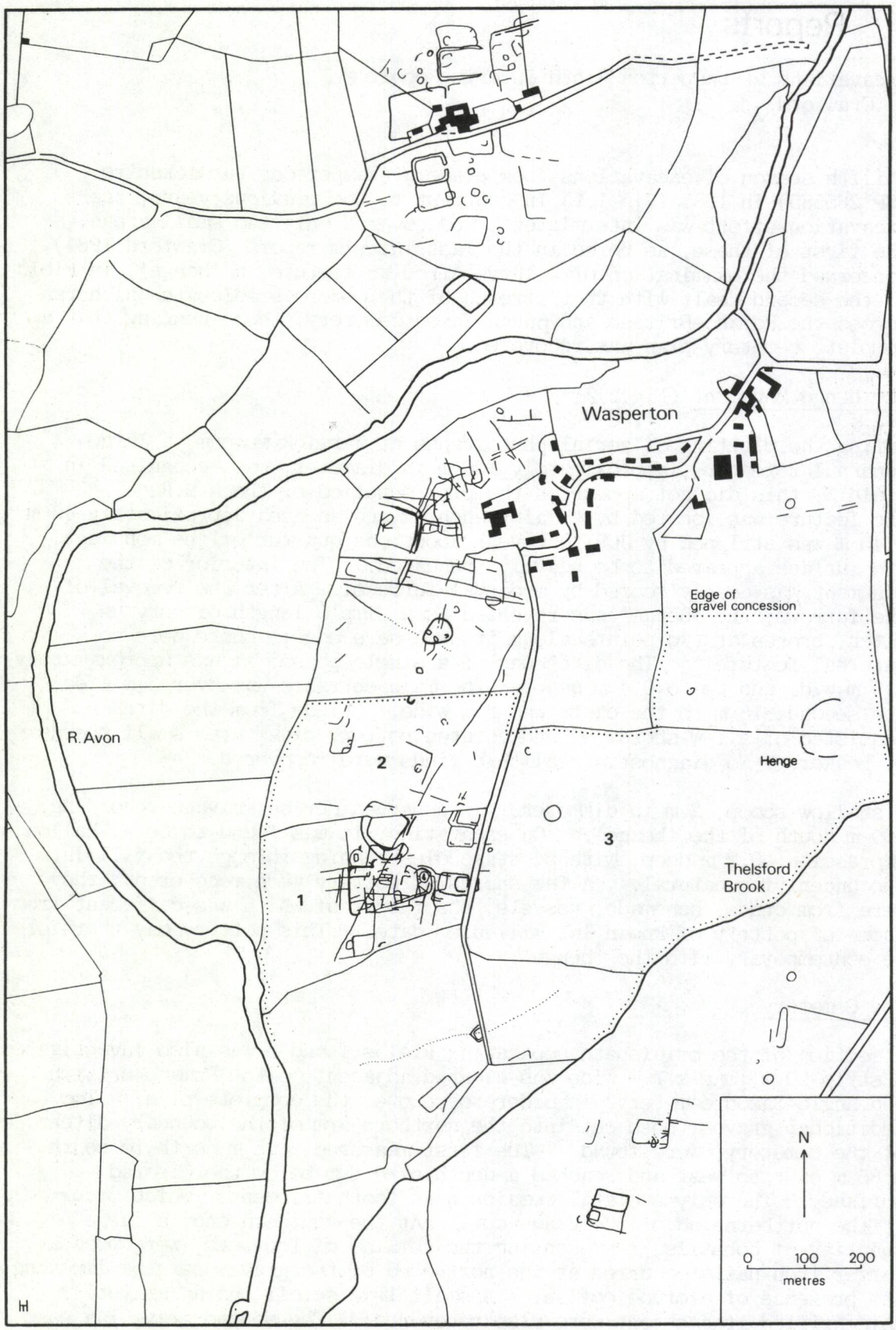


Figure 1.1 Wasperton : cropmarks.

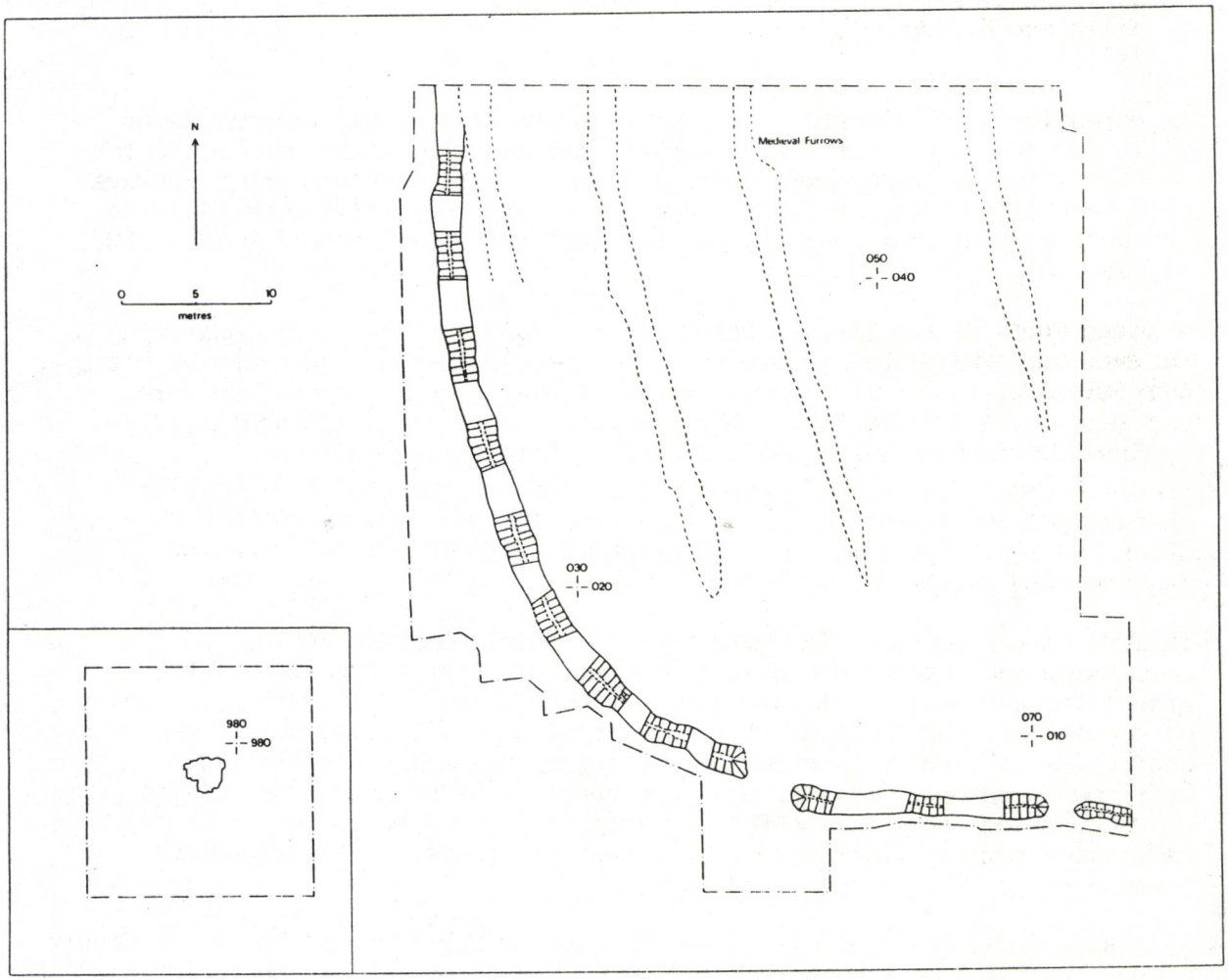


Figure 1.2 Wasperton : the henge monument.

Excavations at Wasperton are now complete. Work is now in progress on the final report. This will be published as a series of papers in forthcoming editions of the Transactions of the Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeology Society.

Reference

Crawford 1984 G.H. Crawford, Excavations at Wasperton: 4th Interim Report, West Midlands Archaeology, 27, 1984.

Acknowledgements

I would like to acknowledge the assistance given to the Wasperton Archaeology Project by Helen Maclagan of Warwick Museum and Martin Carver of BUFAU. Thanks are also due to HBMC, to the Rural Warwickshire Agency, who administer our MSC scheme, and to the excavation and post-excavation team.

Excavations at Aston Mill, Kemerton, 1985
J. Wills and S. Reynolds

An extensive area of complex cropmarks in the Carrant Valley near Aston Mill, Kemerton (Hereford and Worcester) was first photographed in the late 1950s. Ring ditches, settlement enclosures, field systems and trackways were identified along the gravel terrace to the south of Bredon Hill, to the west of a similar complex near Beckford (Webster and Hobley 1964, 12, 14, Fig. 5).

Although much of the area is scheduled as an Ancient Monument, quarrying for sand and gravel has progressively destroyed most of the cropmark sites near Aston Mill over the last 25 years. Small scale excavations were carried out in 1970 by Peter Reynolds (Reynolds 1971, 1-10) and in 1974 by Simon Hillson (Hillson 1974, 46-48). Both failed to locate archaeological features corresponding to the cropmarks on the aerial photographs and it was suggested that the site had been so damaged by ploughing in the period since the cropmarks were identified, that no features had survived.

In 1984 Gloucestershire Sand and Gravel Company sought planning permission and Scheduled Monument Consent to quarry a new area of the gravel terrace over which extended settlements and field systems, probably of prehistoric and Roman date. An excavation was carried out by the Central Excavation Unit in advance of quarrying. This identified a settlement enclosure of Iron Age date near to the southern edge of the gravel terrace, some Romano-British activity, and a building with associated pottery which were provisionally identified as Anglo-Saxon (Bond 1985).

In 1985 a small grant was given by HBMC to the Hereford and Worcester County Council Archaeology Department to carry out further excavation in advance of quarrying. In view of the resources available only a small part of the threatened area could be excavated. The following major periods were represented:

Bronze Age

On the very edge of the quarry face a ring ditch visible on the aerial photographs was located. Topsoil was stripped from approximately three quarters of the circumference of the ditch and the internal surface. Within the uppermost layer of the ditch two fragmentary cremations were identified; a small amount of Bronze Age pottery, flint and animal bone was also recovered. The area enclosed by the ditch was badly plough damaged and no internal features were identified.

Immediately to the east of the ring ditch, two small shallow pits contained pottery and flint scrapers of Bronze Age date. A similar pit to the north contained the remains of a plough-disturbed cremation associated with fragments of similar pottery.

Iron Age

To the north of the ring ditch the boundaries of a large enclosure were identified. The aerial photographs showed a dense concentration of features both within this enclosure, and adjacent to the east. Few internal features were found, however, and the area immediately to the east of the enclosure was devoid of archaeological features. Iron Age pottery in a range of fabrics similar to those found at Beckford were recovered from the enclosure ditch. The fabrics included both Malvernian

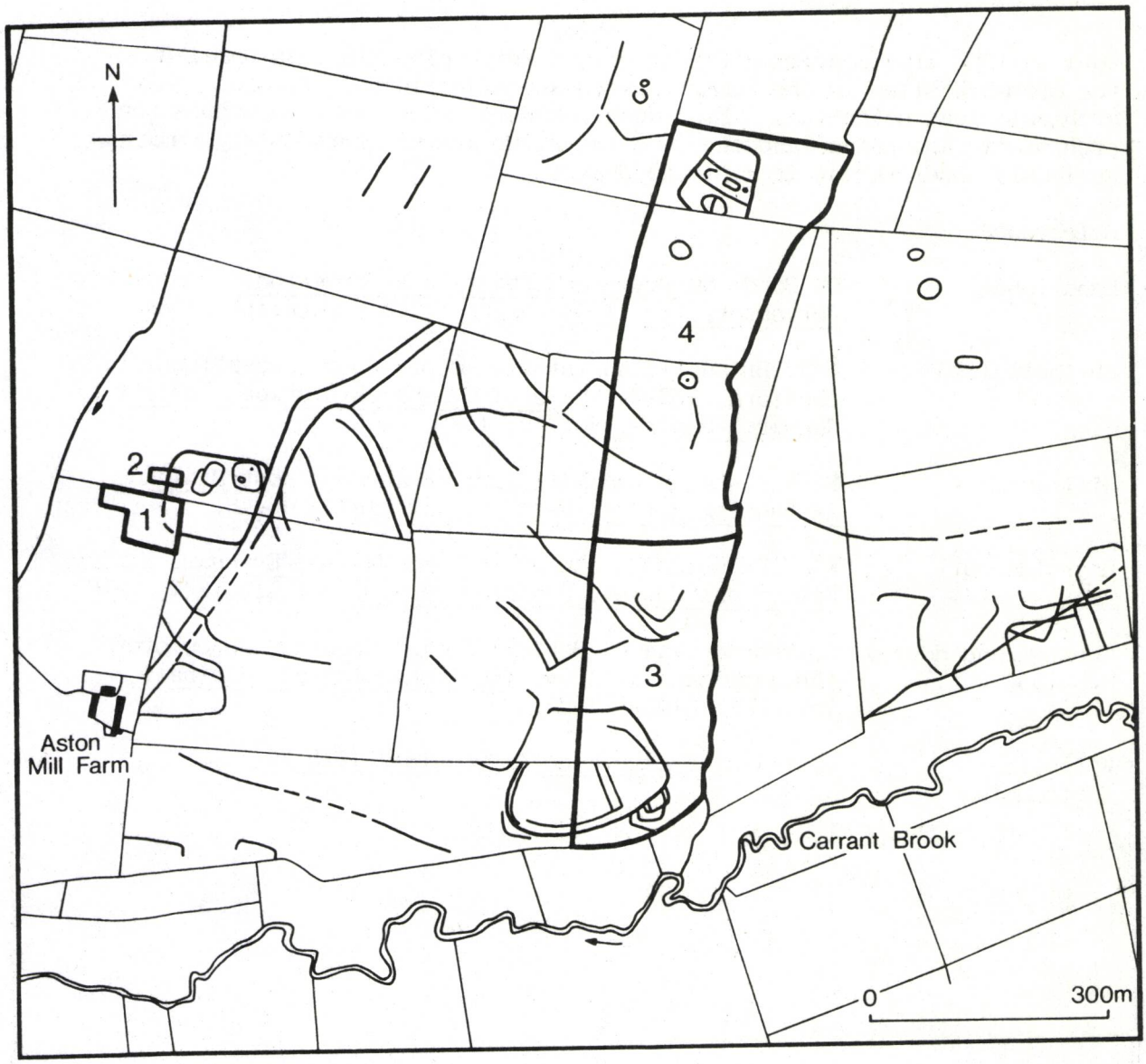


Figure 1.3 Aston Mill : cropmarks in the Aston Mill area showing location of excavations. 1. Reynolds 1970; 2. Hillson 1974; 3. Bond 1984; 4. Wills and Reynolds 1985.

and shell tempered wares, the latter being probably of local manufacture.

Medieval

Across most of the area excavated the truncated remains of medieval ridge and furrow were identified.

The small scale excavations carried out in 1984 and 1985 at Aston Mill have identified a sequence of activity in this area of the Carrant Valley over the later prehistoric and Roman periods. In the Bronze Age barrows and cremation pits were scattered over a wide area of the gravel terrace. The evidence from Beckford to the east indicates a cleared and cultivated landscape by this period and (by the Middle Bronze Age) the presence of a major land boundary across the terrace (Britnell 1975; Wills forthcoming). In the Iron Age enclosed settlements and field systems extended along the terrace and onto the floodplain. By the late Iron Age major changes in the location of settlement took place, and the character and distribution of settlement in the valley from then onwards into the Roman period remains poorly understood.

Work in 1985 also confirmed the extent to which ploughing has damaged the cropmark sites in the Kemerton area and significantly reduced their archaeological potential. Even when scheduled as Ancient Monuments the prehistoric and Roman landscapes of the river gravel terraces may remain seriously under threat from plough damage.

References

Bond 1985 — D. Bond, Survey and Excavation at Kemerton, Worcestershire, 1984, unpublished typescript, 1985.

Britnell 1975 — W.J. Britnell, An Interim Report upon excavations at Beckford 1972-74, Vale of Evesham Historical Society Research Papers, Vol. 5, 1975, 1-12.

Hillson 1974 — S. Hillson, Aston Mill Farm, Kemerton, West Midlands Archaeological Newsheet, No. 17, 1974, 46-48.

Reynolds 1971 — P.J. Reynolds, Aston Mill Farm, Vale of Evesham Historical Society Research Papers, Vol II, 1971, 1-10.

Webster and Hobley 1964 — G. Webster and B. Hobley, Aerial Reconnaissance over the Warwickshire Avon, The Archaeological Journal, Vol. CXXI, 1964, 1-22.

Wills, forthcoming — J. Wills, Excavations at Beckford 1975-79.

Worcester Archaeological Project 1985/86
Charles Mundy

Introduction

Between 14th February and 31st March 1985, a series of trial trenches was dug in two areas of central Worcester threatened by redevelopment (Fig. 1.4, HWCM 378 Blackfriars and HWCM 3899 Deansway/Bull Entry). The results from this work (Mundy 1985) indicated that important archaeological deposits survived in both areas and that these needed further investigation before redevelopment began. Problems of funding and access, tied to final planning permission being given for the development scheme, precluded excavation on HWCM 3899 in this financial year (this site has subsequently been scheduled as an Ancient Monument). However, two sites on HWCM 378 (Trench 6 and Trench 7 - Fig. 1.5) identified in March as being of primary importance were made available for excavation with the help of Worcester City Council, Centrovincial Estates plc, Carmichaels and Sons Limited and Marstons Limited.

The first site to be excavated (Trench 6), now completed, lay just within the northern line of the 14th-century city wall, in an area currently used as a car park. The second site (Trench 7), which is still being excavated, lies some 30m to the east of the first (some 20m to the south of the city wall on a vacant plot in front of an old brewery). The stratigraphy on these two sites represents 80% of the surviving (or relatively undisturbed) archaeology in the area between the city wall and Broad Street (to the north and south) and between Angel Place and the Dolday/Butts intersection (to the east and west).

The excavation work was carried out by a team of 16 part-time and full-time trainees funded by the Manpower Services Commission. The team was supervised by three archaeologists, two funded by the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission and one funded through a public appeal organised under the auspices of the Worcestershire Archaeological Society.

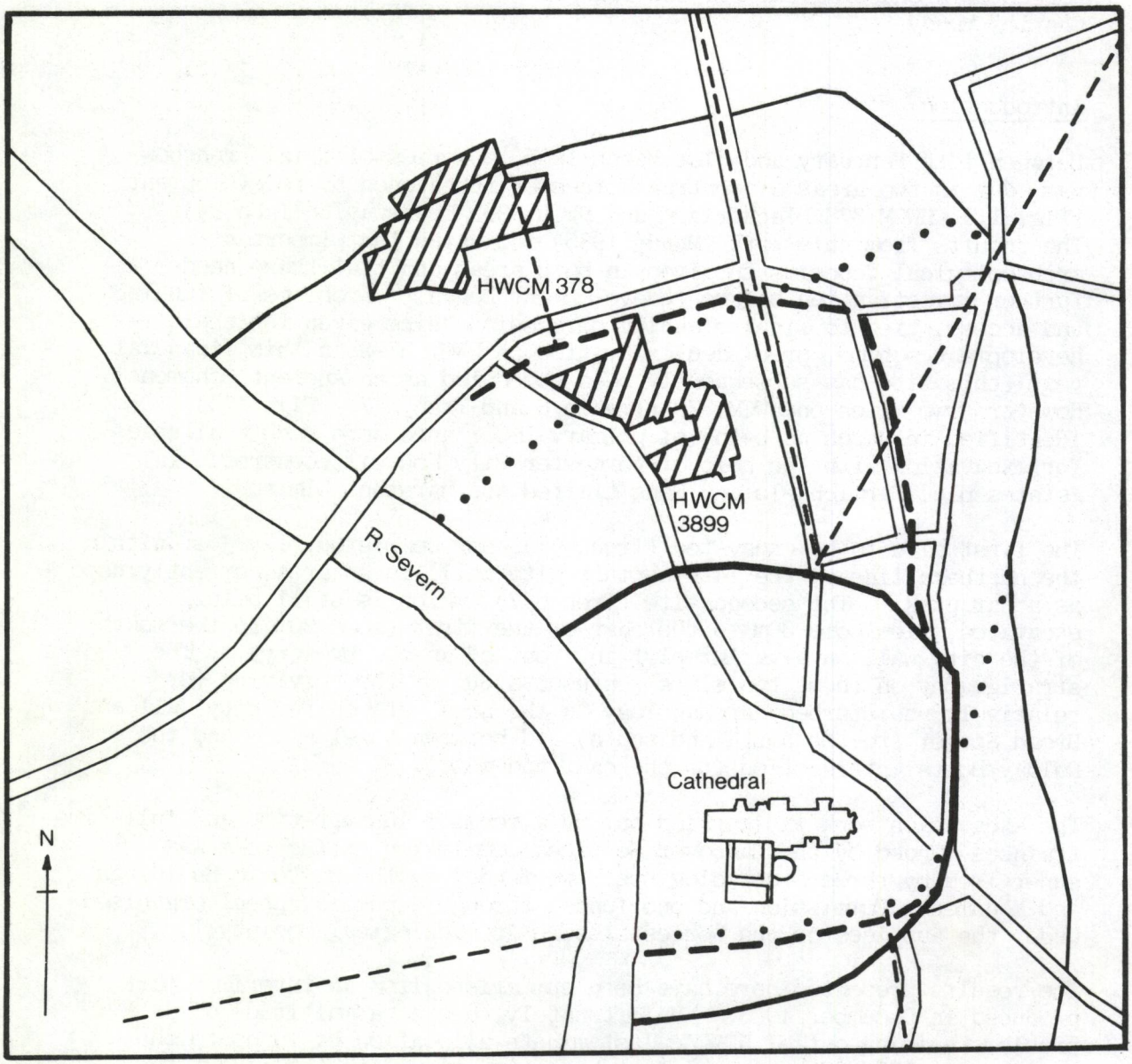
The results presented here have been summarised from an interim report produced in December 1985. Unfortunately, due to a multitude of problems arising out of HBMC's last minute allocation of funds to the project for 1986/87, there has not been time to update the report to include the most recent and perhaps most important discoveries made in Trench 7. A more complete report will be available for West Midlands Archaeology next year.

Trench 6

This site lies on the northern and western edge of the Main Worcester river terrace. During the construction of the medieval city wall in this area, the northern edge of the river terrace was cut back and lined with shaped sandstone blocks. Unfortunately, this wall survives here only at its base, some 6m - 7m below the car park surface to the south of the alignment, the upper part having been rebuilt in the 19th century. For safety reasons excavation up to this rebuild was not possible and therefore the surviving northerly extent of some of the earlier features could not be recorded.

Period I Geology

The underlying geology comprised mixed sands and gravels over red keuper marl. Although a naturally occuring light brown sandy loam was found above the sands and gravels in trench 7 (as well as in trial trench 1, Mundy 1985 - see Fig. 1.5 for location of trench) it was not present here. It seems likely that this soil had been removed by Roman activity.



KEY

Roman defensive circuit.

Roman road.

Possible course of Late Saxon Burh (after Bennet, 1980)

Alternative course of the Burh (J.Roberts, unpublished).

Medieval City Wall.

The threatened sites investigated in the current project.

Figure 1.4 Worcester : Location of HWCM 378 and HWCM 3899.

No evidence for prehistoric activity was found on the site nor was any residual prehistoric pottery recovered.

Period II Roman
Lying above the truncated natural in the western part of the site were the remains of an oven comprising an extensively charred clay flue and associated cobble/pebble oven floor. This appeared to be enclosed within a structure represented by a slot to the west, and by alignments of stake/post holes to the south and east. The oven was probably for domestic use, with charred grain being mixed in with the collapsed daub walls. To the south and east of the oven three irregular cut features were probably the remains of post holes.

Covering the oven and the cut features was a 0.15m - 0.4m thick dark grey sandy loam which probably represented a natural accumulation of soil. Though this soil contained no visible horizons, several features of definite Roman date were found cut from within the lower 0.05m - 0.1m of the eastern part of it. The most notable of these features was a 0.8m - 1.0m deep ditch, aligned east to west. The profile of the cut, 'V' shaped at the top (1.0m - 1.5m wide) with a vertically sided rectangular slot in the bottom (0.3m wide), and its fills, suggested that it was a truncated defensive feature rather than a drainage or boundary ditch.

Although the evidence indicates that the site lay on the periphery of the Roman settlement, the nature of the features found and their relationship to each other suggests both continual occupation and, in the earlier phase at least, proximity to an area of habitation. The truncated natural profile discussed in Period I is interpreted here as having been associated with Roman activity, though the nature of this is a matter for speculation.

Period III Saxon
Lying within the upper part of the dark grey soil discussed in Period II, in the eastern central part of the site, were the well preserved remains of an oven. The flue (1.5m long by 0.3m - 0.4m wide) and the oven chamber (0.6m in diameter and surviving to 0.2m in height) were made of clay, the chamber walls being reinforced by a wattle frame. The collapsed roof of the oven comprised baked daub and contained the impressions of wattling, though none of this survived. Charring of the flue was limited to a small area some 0.2m from the oven chamber. Identification of the carbonised grain found in the bottom of the chamber may indicate the function of the oven, suggested as being for malting barley (P Barker, pers.comm.). Just to the north of the oven were a number of burnt limestone slabs (each between 0.1m - 0.25m long and 0.03m - 0.06m thick) arranged in two alignments, one course thick, at right-angles to each other. This probably represented the foundation of a small structure associated with the oven, though its function has yet to be determined.

Only one sherd of pottery was found directly associated with the oven, however this came from the collapsed roofing lying in the chamber. This sherd has been provisionally identified as 10th/11th-century (D. Hurst, pers.comm.).

A number of good quality carbon samples obtained from the oven should provide a more secure date for it.

It would appear that during the Saxon period this area was a field or waste ground, though the oven and associated structure indicated a temporary phase of more organised usage.

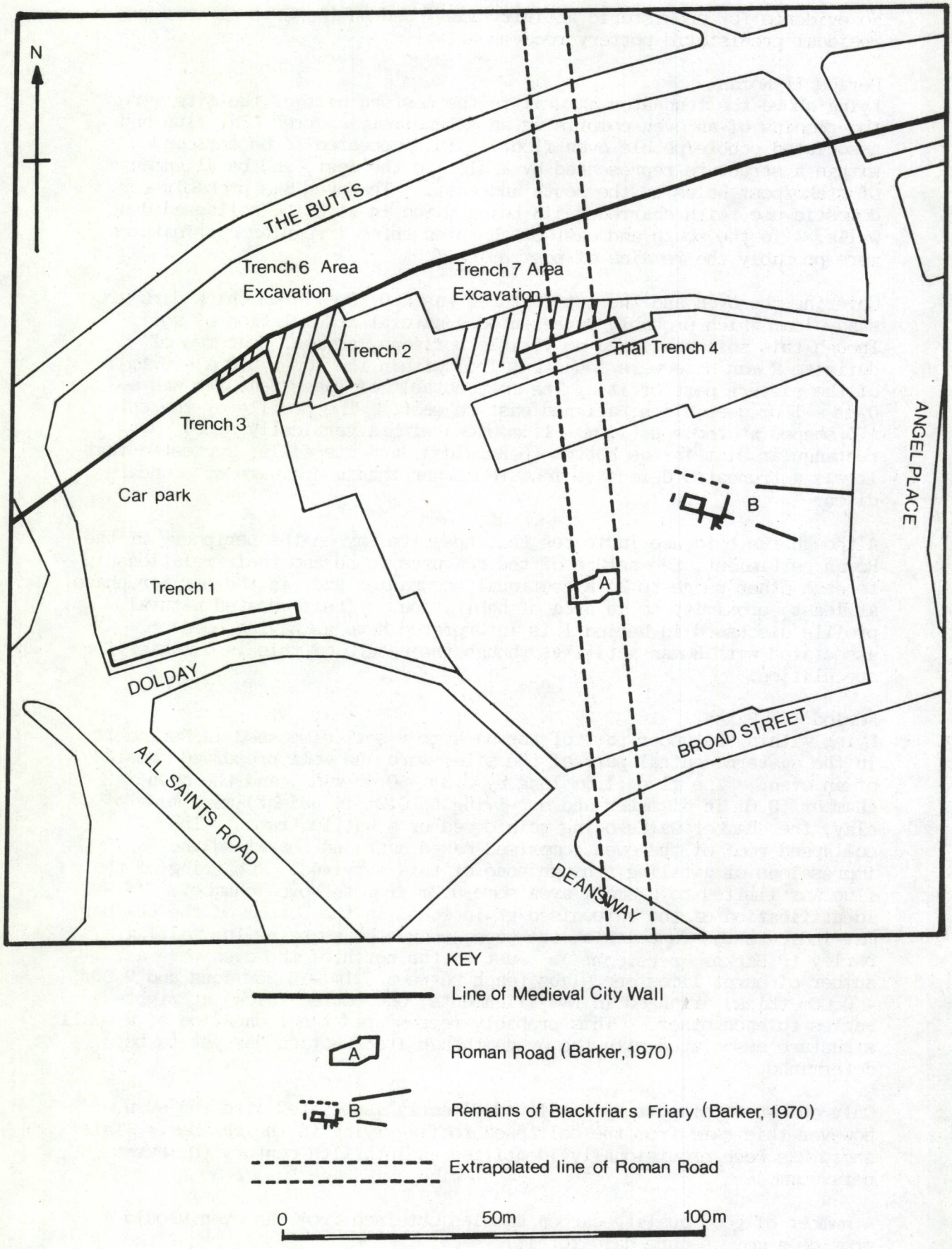


Figure 1.5 Worcester : HWCM 378, location of excavations.

Period IV Medieval
Just beneath the surface of the dark grey soil discussed in Period III, in the eastern part of the site, was an extensive layer of ash and charcoal overlying a burnt earth floor containing six stake holes. An east to west aligned shallow slot in the southern part of this surface contained the burnt remains of a wattle and daub wall. Apart from a few residual sherds the pottery associated with this sequence was 11th/12th-century. Though truncated to the south by the Period VI quarry and also, unfortunately, by one of the trial trenches, enough evidence survived to suggest that this sequence represented part of a small early medieval structure, possibly a building, destroyed by fire.

Interestingly, no evidence was found associated with the construction or use of the medieval city wall (completed in this area in the early 14th century) or with the occupation of the site by the Dominican Friars (Blackfriars) who acquired the area in the 14th century. Consequently, as with Period III, this area would seem to have been a field or waste ground throughout the medieval period, the 11th/12th-century sequence representing only transitory activity.

Period V Early Post-Medieval
Lying above the central and eastern part of the dark grey soil discussed in Period II was a 0.01m - 0.1m thick accumulation of greeny (cessy) brown loam. Dug through the surface of this was a northeast to southwest alignment comprising six substantial post holes and three post-settings. The pottery from this sequence, its relationship to the Period VI bank and some documentary evidence suggests this alignment represented a 16th or 17th-century drying rack for cloth. Although the deposition of the cessy loams over the accumulating dark soil from Period II, II and IV indicated a change in land use, this area was probably still open ground.

Period VI Post Medieval
Dug from the Period V ground surface down into the natural, in the central and southern part of the site, was a northeast to southwest aligned quarry (at least 25m long and 5m wide by about 1.5m deep). The spoil from this feature had been dumped to the north to form a bank (surviving in places to 1.5m high) in the southern side of which was an alignment of post and stake holes. The pottery evidence indicated that this feature was of Civil War date and there is documentary evidence to associate it with the refurbishment of the medieval defences during the first battle of Worcester in 1646. The quarry was not left open for long and appears to have been backfilled in one operation.

The most important aspect of the post Civil War sequence, which will require documentary research to be fully understood, related to the establishment and development of a property boundary, and associated buildings, on the remains of the south side of the Civil War bank.

Trench 7 (excavation still in progress)

Period I Geology
The underlying geology comprises mixed sands and gravels over which, in areas undisturbed by Period II activity, lies a 0.2m - 0.3m thick light brown sandy loam representing a naturally formed soil.

Although no prehistoric features have yet been identified (nor any residual prehistoric pottery) these may lie beneath, or have been removed by, Period II features.

Period II Roman (excavation still in progress)
Overlying the natural in the central part of the site is the 0.5m - 1.0m thick foundation (of compacted sand and pebbles) for a north to south

aligned road, the earliest surface - at least 12m wide - comprising pebbles and stones. The road was resurfaced at least twice, the later additions comprising predominately iron slag. This sequence of metalled surfaces is a continuation of that found by Barker (1970) in the 1960s during the construction of the car park and shopping precinct to the south of the site (see Fig. 1.4). Although the construction and subsequent resurfacings of the road have yet to be formally dated, there is little doubt that it was initially a feature of the Roman settlement. A 0.1m - 0.15m thick layer of iron slag, charcoal and fragments of furnace lining dumped over the latest road surface should provide good material for carbon dating and hence a reliable idea of when the road was abandoned.

To the east of the road, a small island of stratigraphy contains a 0.02m - 0.03m thick burnt earth floor associated with at least two post holes (sealed by the Period III soil). Lying beneath the floor, to the east, is two thirds of a Severn Valley ware pot, the other third having been removed by a Period V cellar. Although the floor has yet to be exposed, sieving of the soil lying immediately above it has produced quantities of carbonised grain. It seems likely that the floor was associated with a building fronting the road.

Although no evidence has yet been found for buildings to the west of the road, a limestone lined well, a large clay lined feature and a number of rubbish pits of Roman date have been identified. Similarly, no evidence has yet been found for iron smelting being carried out on the site, though the large quantity of slag contained in the Period III soil, together with the evidence for iron smelting found to the south in the 1960s (Barker 1970), indicates the large scale of the industrial activity taking place in the vicinity. This activity might also be related to the substantial width of the road which could be seen as being primarily for industrial use, the site appearing to be located in an industrial suburb of the Roman settlement.

Period III Post-Roman/Medieval
Overlying the Period II features was a 0.25m - 0.4m thick dark grey coarse sandy loam containing few man-made inclusions. This soil was effectively undifferentiated, with no horizons visible either in section or when excavated in plan in 0.05m spits. The pottery from this soil was mainly Roman (samian, Severn Valley and Malvernian wares) with some 11th/12th-century sherds. The opinion of a soil scientist who examined this soil in situ was that it probably represented partly dumping and partly natural accumulation of material over the decayed remains of the Period II settlement (R. MacPhail pers.comm.). The surface of the soil, sealed by Period IV dumps, appears to have been a field or area of waste ground in the 13th/early 14th century, if not before. An unmetalled trackway lying in a shallow depression in the western part of the surface of this soil, along with a number of cess pits and post or stake holes in the central part of the site, indicated use of the area and though it is not yet clear whether these features were associated with the occupation of the site by the Dominican Friars (Period IV) or represented earlier activity. A more conclusive interpretation of the soil and the activity occurring on its surface will be possible once post-excavation work has been completed.

As yet, no evidence for Saxon activity has been found on this part of the site.

Period IV Medieval/Late Medieval
Period IV relates to the occupation of the site by the Dominican Friars. The stratigraphy associated with this period was extremely complex,

containing at least three structural periods, each with several sub-phases. The three main periods are briefly summarised below:

Phase 1 (14th century)
The Dominican Friars acquired the area in 1347 and constructed a substantial timber building in the northern part of the site. Associated with this structure to the east was a north to south wall comprising shaped sandstone blocks. This appears to have represented a major dividing wall on the northwestern edge of the friary complex.

Phase 2 (14th century)
While the Phase 1 building was demolished, the sandstone wall continued in use and the area to the west was used as a garden and rubbish tip.

Phase 3 (15th century)
This phase was represented by a major reorganisation of this area of the site with further walls of shaped sandstone blocks being added to the one surviving from Phase 1. Two of these walls formed part of the western side of the Friary cloisters, while a third massive wall (some 1.5m thick in places) might have formed part of a chapel.

Period V Post-Medieval
The bulk of the evidence for post-medieval activity of the site comes from an extremely complex sequence of vertically truncated cut features. A proper interpretation of these will only be possible once post-excavation analysis has been completed and they will not be discussed in any detail here.

Although the friary is known, from documentary sources, to have been demolished between 1530 and 1570, it would appear that the walls from Period IV phase 3 though robbed out down to about 0.15m below ground level, continued in use as foundations into the immediate post-friary phase. The function of the walls during this period is impossible to determine, though since some of the alignments were rebuilt in the 18th century and again in the Victorian period they would seem to have served at least as property divisions. Some of these alignments were almost certainly associated with the building over a cellar complex in the eastern part of the site. This cellar was initially constructed in the late 17th century, being extended and refloored in the 18th century. Part of a cellar uncovered in the eastern part of the site appears to have been a late 18th/early 19th-century construction.

In the central and western part of the site a number of rubbish pits contained 18th/19th-century pottery, while three brick and stoned lined cess pits produced a superb collection of early 18th-century glass and pottery.

Conclusions

The excavations have already produced a large corpus of well stratified data which will, once post-excavation and specialist analysis has been completed, allow for a detailed discussion of the inception, development and decline of the Roman settlement in this area. Though evidence for Roman activity recorded during the construction of the car park and shopping precinct to the south of the site is not of sufficient detail to make direct stratigraphic comparisons possible, the dating evidence which will be obtained from Trench 7 concerning the Roman road and associated features will strengthen, complement and perhaps modify the more general conclusions drawn from this earlier work (Barker 1970).

The identification of a 'dark earth' in Trench 6 and 7 in a similar stratigraphic position to 'dark earth' deposits found in other urban centres in the country is important in helping to understand and document late Roman/post Roman and Saxon activity.

Although the evidence for Saxon occupation of the area is slight, the oven in Trench 6 - if confirmed as Saxon by carbon dating - will be the first intact Saxon feature ever found in Worcester. The fact that this oven was found well outside what is thought likely to have been the boundary of the Saxon settlement (see Fig. 1.4), is significant in that it indicates that activity associated with this period may be found anywhere in the city, not just in the "historic core".

The evidence uncovered relating to medieval activity, and specifically that relating to the occupation of the site by the Dominican Friars, is significant in that the period is little understood in this part of Worcester. Although fundamental questions concerning the friary cannot be answered from the excavation results, it has at least been possible to document in detail what is probably the only surviving part of it. Considering the position of some of the major friary walls in relation to the Roman road, this record may be extremely important.

The post-medieval features found on the site, apart from containing a useful assemblage of finds, will in some cases help the reconstruction of earlier, though less evident, property divisions and buildings units as well as completing the archaeological documentation of the development of the area from Roman times to the present day.

References

Barker, P.A. 1970 The Origins of Worcester, Transactions of the Worcestershire Archaeological Society series III, 2 (1968-69)

Mundy, C.F. 1985 Trial Excavations in Worcester 1985, Hereford and Worcester County Council, unpublished bound typescript, Worcester 1985.

Stafford Castle 1985
W. D. Klemperer

Work at Stafford Castle is continuing, funded jointly by Stafford Borough Council and by the Manpower Services Commission with a Community Programme of 15 persons in 1985-86. The launching of the castle as an interpretation centre has moved nearer with the reroofing of two towers and the construction of a replica 14th-century herb garden. The main emphasis of the project (in the last full season's excavation) has been on the site of the deserted medieval settlement.

The Medieval Settlement.

The deserted medieval settlement is immediately to the east of the outer bailey on gently sloping clay (Fig.1.6). An area excavation of 772 sq. metres has revealed a complex series of features relating to medieval occupation, the most important of these features being roads and those relating to structures.

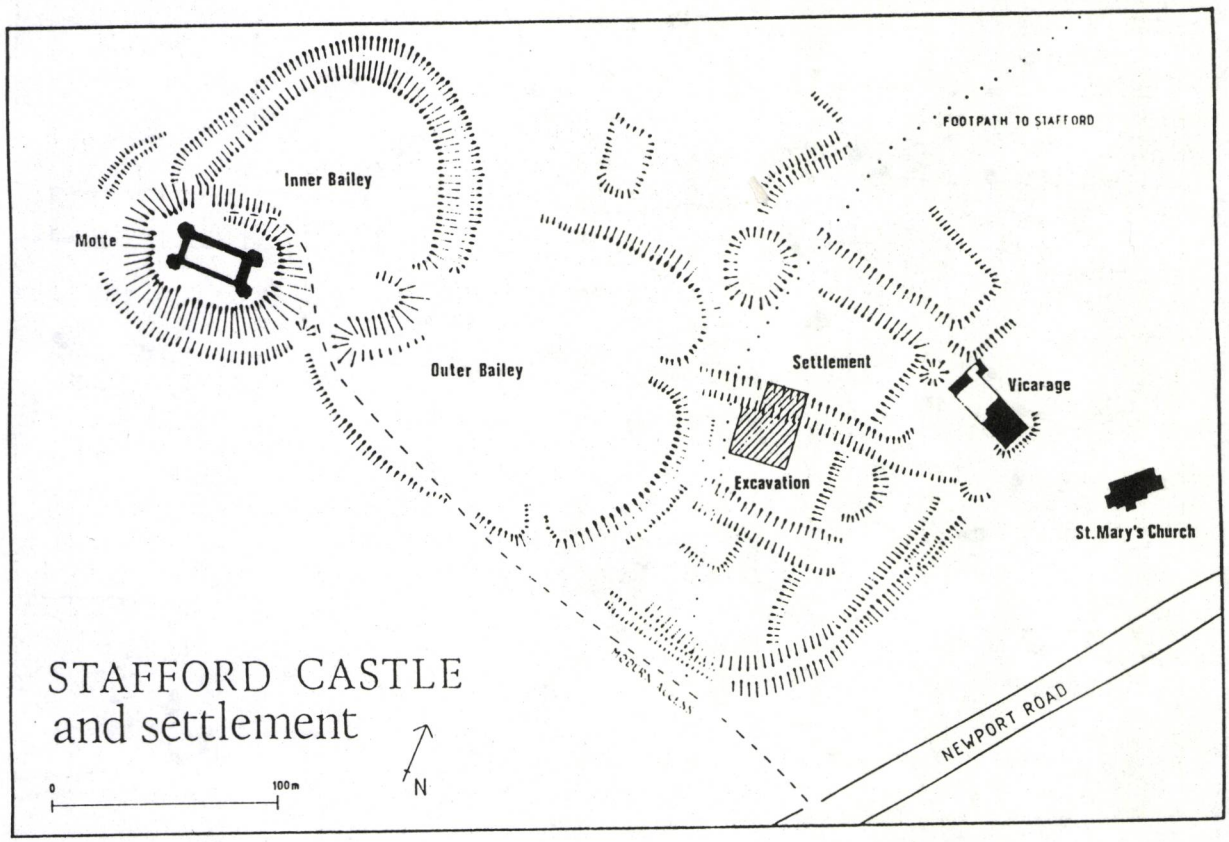


Figure 1.6 Stafford Castle : location plan of the castle and medieval settlement.

Five roads have been identified (Fig.1.7). The earliest three were within the hollow-way at the northern end of the site, and in each case the earlier road had been cut by a later road to the north. A fourth road, sealing earlier features, and probably post-dating the abandonment of the first three, ran along the southern shoulder of the hollow-way. Cutting the fourth road, a fifth road or trackway which was probably fenced, ran northeast to southwest across the site, representing a change in alignment.

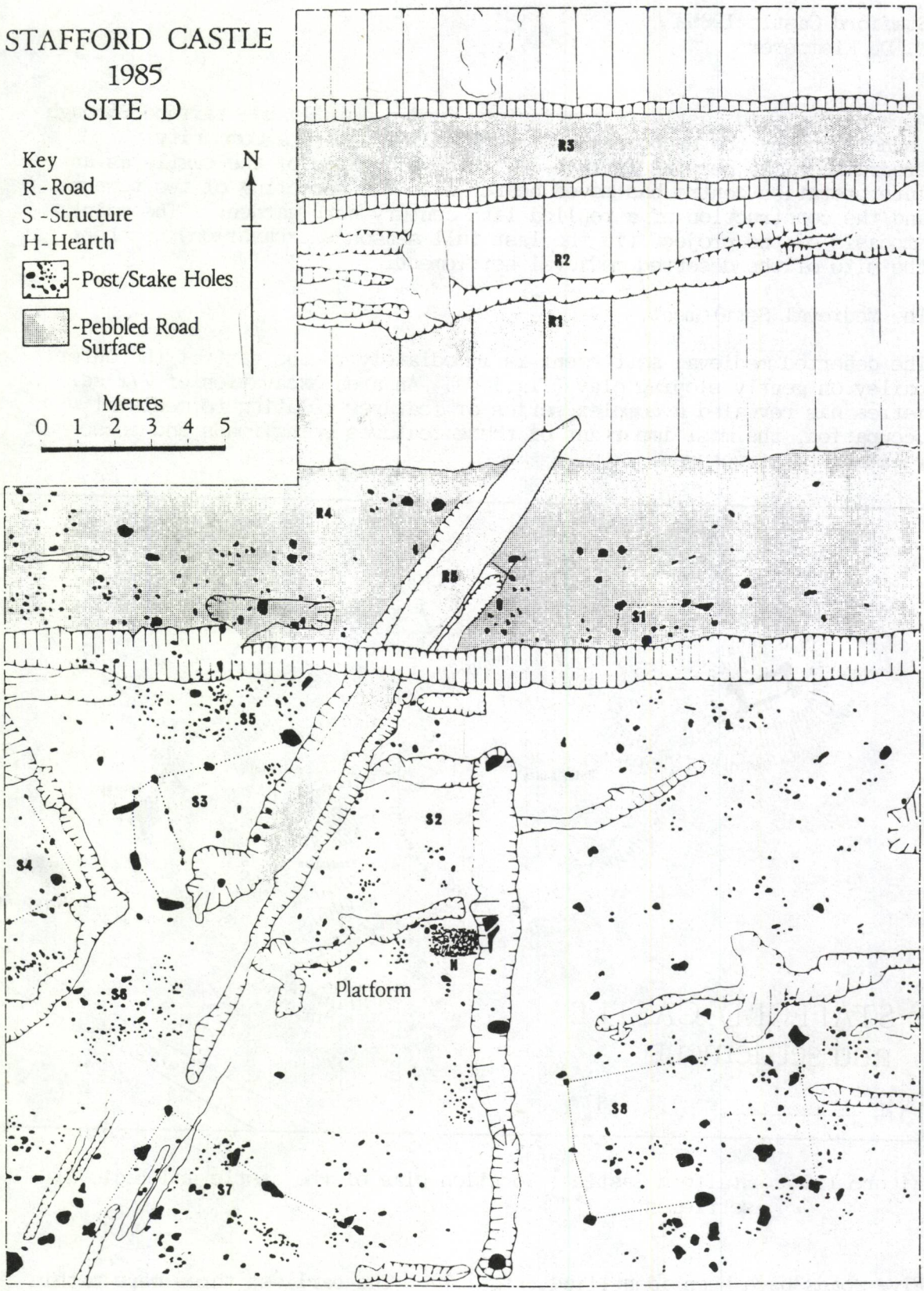


Figure 1.7 Stafford Castle : the medieval settlement, main features.

On the eastern half of the site one complete building has been distinguished from the scatter of post and stake holes (Fig.1.7). Little at the moment can be said of the date of this building apart from it being earlier rather than later in the stratigraphic sequence. A series of longitudinal features orientated east-west may have been drainage gulleys or boundaries. Sealing these features was a layer of humic soil cut by a number of pits containing medieval pottery and the area is interpreted as having had a horticultural use during later occupation.

Early structural evidence, probably contemporary with at least one of the three roads in the hollow-way, comprises a group of features orientated east-west, parallel to and set back from the shoulder of the hollow-way. These features were sealed by road 4 and include a foundation slot and an unrelated group of postholes, possibly an entrance to a building (Fig.1.7). A later group of features on the same alignment probably relates to road 4 and includes foundation slots of a major structure (S2), built on a levelled platform in the central portion of the site. A tiled hearth was recorded on this platform but no relationship between the hearth and this structure is proven.

Other structural evidence is concentrated in the west of the site. A posthole building (S3), with an internal dividing wall was cut by the fifth road. A building to the west of that (S4), represented by postholes, stakeholes and a drainage gulley around it, is on a similar alignment, although later than (S3). Stakeholes and pebble densities indicated two less substantial structures nearby which may have been outbuildings (S5 and S6). A series of foundation slots, postholes and stakeholes align with the fifth road near the southwest corner of the excavation. These features indicate a building rebuilt at least once close to its original position (S7).

Initial inspection of the finds supports documentary evidence for occupation between the 12th century and the mid 15th century. Approximately 15,000 sherds of pottery, 1500 nails and 600 other metal items have been recovered. Domestic metalwork includes hooks, staples, hinges, latches, chain fragments, candle holders, bolts and knives. Late medieval contexts in the southwest corner of the site produced an array of military and horse related metalwork including spurs, horseshoes, buckles, arrowheads and spear/lance tips.

Post-excavation work is in initial stages but the site as currently understood can be summarised as follows:- Intensive occupation of the site probably began in the 12th century with the establishment of timber structures. Phases of roads and timber structures, built on differing alignments and employing differing building techniques, continued until about the middle of the 15th century. The site was then abandoned as a permanent settlement, the land eventually being incorporated into agricultural use.

Hen Domen, Montgomery (Powys), Interim Report 1985.
P. A. Barker and R. A. Higham.

Work this year (29th June - 20th July) was concentrated on the rampart of the northeastern sector of the bailey and on a small length of the crest of the outer rampart, north of the area excavated in Stage I of the excavation (see Hen Domen Vol. I, 1982).

The bailey rampart was reduced along its length (some 40.00 m) by approximately 0.30 m. The main body of the rampart proved to be an undifferentiated dump of boulder clay without features or any discernible stratification. It contained no pottery or metal finds, and only a handful of animal bone fragments.

At the western end of the excavated stretch a level-topped mound of hard clay and stones was embedded within the rampart. By analogy with Stage I of the excavation this mound may represent the site of an interval tower on the bailey defences. It overlay a narrow layer of lighter coloured clay which appears to be a continuation of the marking-out bank found in Stage I, though not made of the same material. Under the rampart lay the buried plough-soil of presumed Anglo-Saxon date (see Med. Arch. XV 1971). This plough-soil has been protected wherever it is exposed with polythene sheet and sifted soil, until it can be excavated entire.

A short stretch of the crest of the outer rampart, measuring 8.00 m x 1.80 m, was stripped of its turf and a thin layer of clay soil and pebbles, revealing a pattern of post-holes, stake-holes and wattle slots (see Fig.1.8) which prove beyond doubt that, at a late stage in the castle's life at least, the outer rampart was defended with a palisade and fighting platform. It seems probable that the palisade was a clay wall strengthened with wattles (a technique for which there is good evidence elsewhere in the bailey), and that the clay soil and pebbles which sealed it represent the debris from the collapsed wall. The fighting platform seems to have stood on the rampart crest (rather than being raised above it as on the inner rampart). The whole construction would form a mantlet lying behind the outer ditch, providing a formidable obstacle in front of the main defences of the bailey. Although this was a comparatively small sample of the bailey's outer rampart (the only stretch sufficiently clear of trees to be suitable for excavation) it seems reasonable to suppose that a similar palisade or wall ran around the whole circuit. It must, however, be stressed that only the uppermost evidence was examined and that nothing is known of earlier arrangements.

At the entrance to the bailey two narrow post-holes and one very large post-pit were excavated. These presumably represent part of a gatehouse or defended entrance passage, but no general interpretation will be possible until the rest of the entrance is fully excavated.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all who worked hard in removing an intractable rampart. We continue to depend upon the goodwill of many, especially the owner of the site, Mr. John Wainwright, Mr. Ivor Tanner and the Civic Society of Montgomery. The excavation was made possible largely through the generosity of Messrs. Barker and Carson Limited of Droitwich. Additional funds and equipment were provided by the Universities of Birmingham and Exeter.

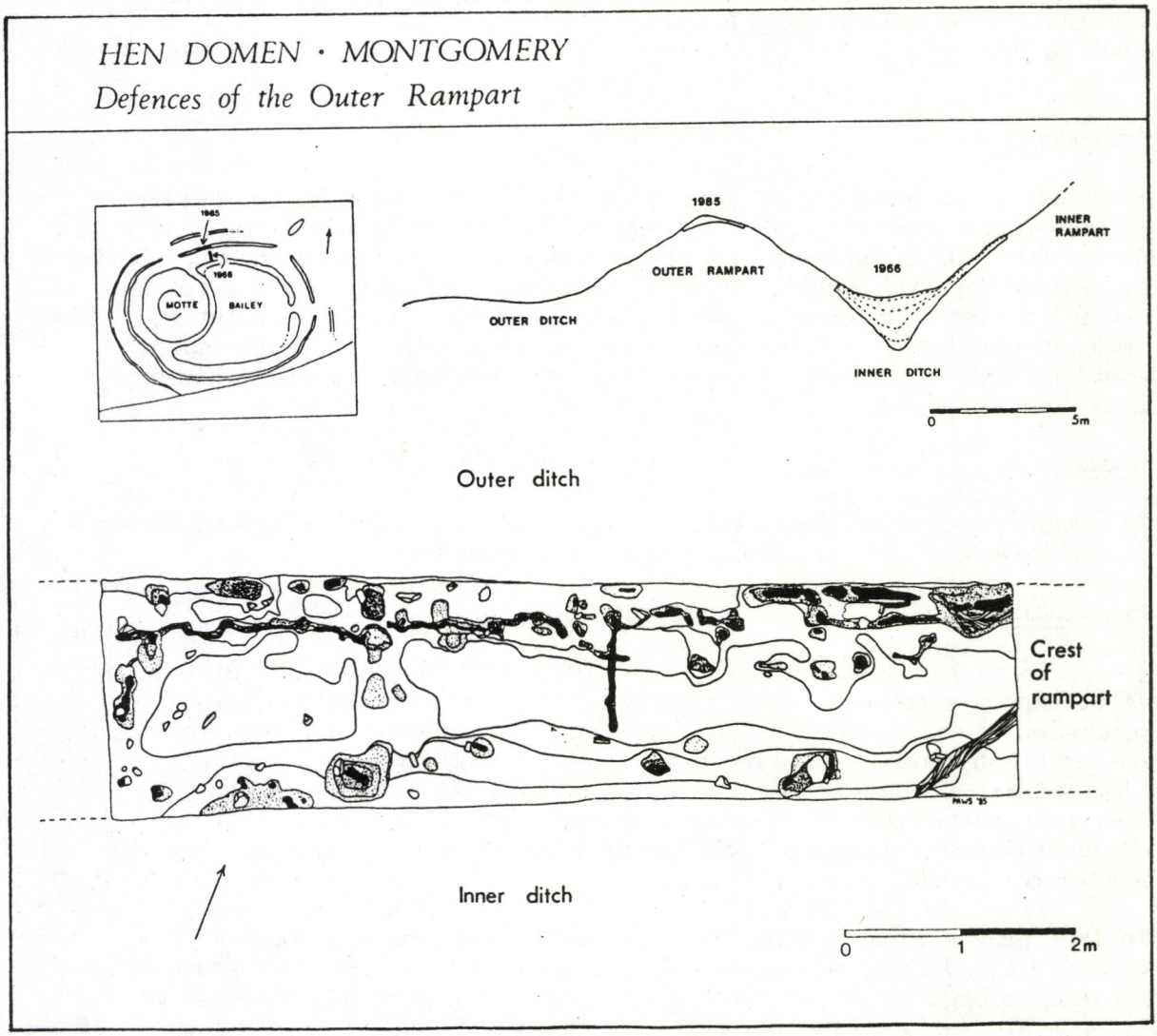


Figure 1.8 Hen Domen : the outer rampart.

Excavation of the Carmelite Friary and Medieval Occupation Site in Ludlow Shropshire: Second Interim Report.
Annette Roe.

Introduction

Following a successful 1984 season of excavation on the Ludlow Friary, a second season ran from April-September, 1985. After the first season it was clear that the sequence of strata was more complicated and much better preserved than had originally been envisaged, and that in order to recover properly information on the important pre-friary structures, further work was necessary. Once again generous donations were forthcoming, enabling the Unit to continue its investigation into the early history of Ludlow.

Results

Although analysis of the finds and stratification from the second season is not complete, the following results are reported:-

Pre-friary Phase

The earliest occupation levels all rendered a fair amount of pottery and it all appears to be of good quality. The earliest features are predominantly post-holes and stake-holes many of which are seen to be in patterns and lines suggesting structures. These probably represent timber-built tenement houses. Many of these features contained a high charcoal content and it is suggested that the houses were either accidentally destroyed, or deliberately demolished by fire prior to the next development.

In last year's interim report a pre-friary house was mentioned with a possible tiled floor and plastered limestone walls. At that stage only the wall along the street frontage had been excavated and a couple of tiles hinted at a complete floor. This year this earlier house was excavated. It was about as large as the later friary building and divided into two or possibly three rooms. The main part of the house comprised a domestic area and a good quality reception room with a timber partition between them. To the north the reception room had an elaborate tiled floor laid in a symmetrical pattern, some diagonally, some straight around a large rectangular tiled hearth. Neither floor nor hearth had tiles in situ but it was possible to see the individual impressions of each tile in a mortar matrix and fragments were recovered from the destruction debris above. To the south the domestic room had a compacted clay floor with worn patches filled in with new clay. On top of this was a black deposit representing the final occupation debris of the building. A preliminary look at this deposit suggests that it is the remains of reeds or straw laid on the floor and that it contains fragments of plants, animal bone, egg shell and hearth debris. The partially robbed limestone wall, the western wall of the two rooms described, may also have been the western wall of the house. However, the alignment of the threshold in the middle and the black organic layer spreading over into the area to the west, suggests that this was an internal wall with a further room behind the two described. Obviously this was a house of extremely high quality and is probably that donated by Laurence de Ludlow to the friars in 1349.

Friary Phase

In this second season several features belonging to the friary phase were excavated, one of the most interesting being a bell-casting pit. This was cut into the floors of the 13th-century house and was used before the main

General Plan of Features from Second Season

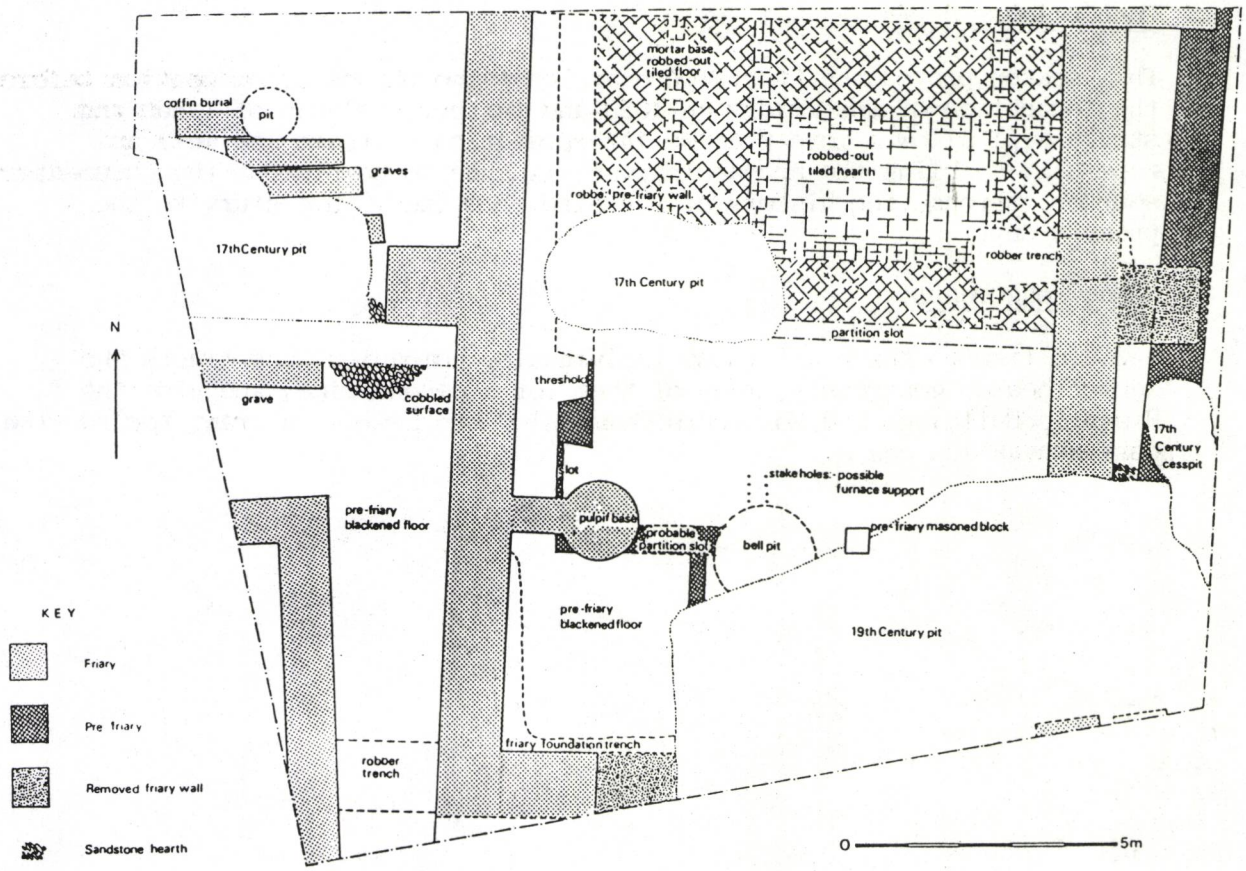


Figure 1.9 The Carmelite Friary, Ludlow : general plan of features, second season.

friary buildings were constructed, probably during the church building phase. Often these pits are found immediately beneath the belfry, but in this case it was a short distance away from where the church is thought to have been sited. The bell was cast in a mould placed in the pit which was then back-filled leaving a hole in which to pour the molten metal. When the metal set the pit was re-excavated and the mould or cope broken away from the bell. In the pit found in Ludlow many pieces of the cope were recovered as well as a piece of metal and slag which had seeped through the mould leaving the impression of the rim of the bell. From this it is possible to say that the bell was 0.91m in diameter.

Another interesting feature belonging to the friary building was the base for a stone pulpit. This was approximately 1.52m in diameter and was found in a position where much carved masonry had been recovered from the Dissolution destruction layers. It is the presence of this pulpit feature which leads to the suggestion that the building excavated was the friary's refectory.

To the west of the refectory, as reported in the first interim, was a small inhumation cemetery. The skeletons excavated last year were buried without coffins or grave goods and appeared to represent a family group. This year one other skeleton from the group was discovered. It was clearly the most important of the group, being buried in a coffin (rows of nails were found either side of it), and it had a cross on its breast which had probably been hung on a string of wooden beads or a fine chain which did not survive.

Conclusions

This season proved that there were at least two phases of occupation before the foundation of the friary in 1350 and further analysis of finds and strata will allow a more precise interpretation of these, as well as hopefully enabling the archaeological evidence to complement the documentary sources, through the history of the site from the 12th century to the present day.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank all those individuals, companies, and trusts who subscribed so generously, many of them for a second time, and also the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission who awarded a grant towards the post-excavation costs.

Dudley Castle Archaeological Project - Summary Report 1984-1985

P. Boland.

Introduction

Dudley lies in the heart of the Black Country, ten miles west of Birmingham and six miles south of Wolverhampton (SO 93 90) and its Castle dominates the town from a hilltop position at the northern end of the medieval market place.

Excavation started in August 1983, under the patronage of the Dudley Zoo Development Trust and the project exists within the framework of Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council's Leisure Services Department as a Manpower Services Commission Community Programme.

The results of the excavations up to the end of 1984 have been summarised in a first Interim Report published in West Midlands Archaeology No. 27 and readers are urged to consult this in order to put the present short summary into context.

Architectural Survey

The ruins of the Castle are presently being repaired and conserved by Dudley Zoo Development Trust and in advance of that programme the Archaeological Project has recorded the standing fabric by detailed elevation drawing. To date the whole of the southern building range, comprising the Gatehouse, Stables and Motte Entrance Arrangements, has been recorded as has the Chapel and Great Chamber on the eastern side of the Bailey.

The Keep Interior - Area 4

Excavation of the Keep interior commenced in the autumn of 1984 on the completion of repair and restoration work. The removal of a succession of dumps of relatively modern material revealed spreads of rubble, mortar and loam likely to have been generated by the destruction of the Keep in 1647. Cutting the destruction rubble were a series of pairs of regularly spaced post-holes which ran parallel to the north wall of the Keep and adjacent to it along its whole length. Local historians record that William, Viscount Dudley and Ward, carried out restoration work on the parapet of the Keep in the late 18th century, and the finds from the post-holes linked with their very regular layout suggest they may well have supported scaffolding used during the restoration. As part of the same 18th-century restoration programme the interior of the Keep is said to have been cleared of debris and this seems to be reflected in the destruction rubble which at a maximum depth of 0.2 m was much less deep than might have been expected. Beneath the various spreads of destruction debris was a plaster floor which, except at the eastern end of the Keep, was substantially intact and must have been the surface in use just before the 1647 demolition.

The surviving plaster was on average 0.05 m thick and its surface was examined for irregularities or wear patterns which may have suggested the presence of floor coverings or the position of furniture and fittings. However, none were found although in one very limited area the floor had been patched with fresh plaster.

The removal of the plaster exposed various thin layers of clay, loam and mortar which had acted as levelling layers for the floor and which contained finds of 16th-century date, suggesting they, and by inference the plaster floor, were laid at this period. The laying of the floor seems to have

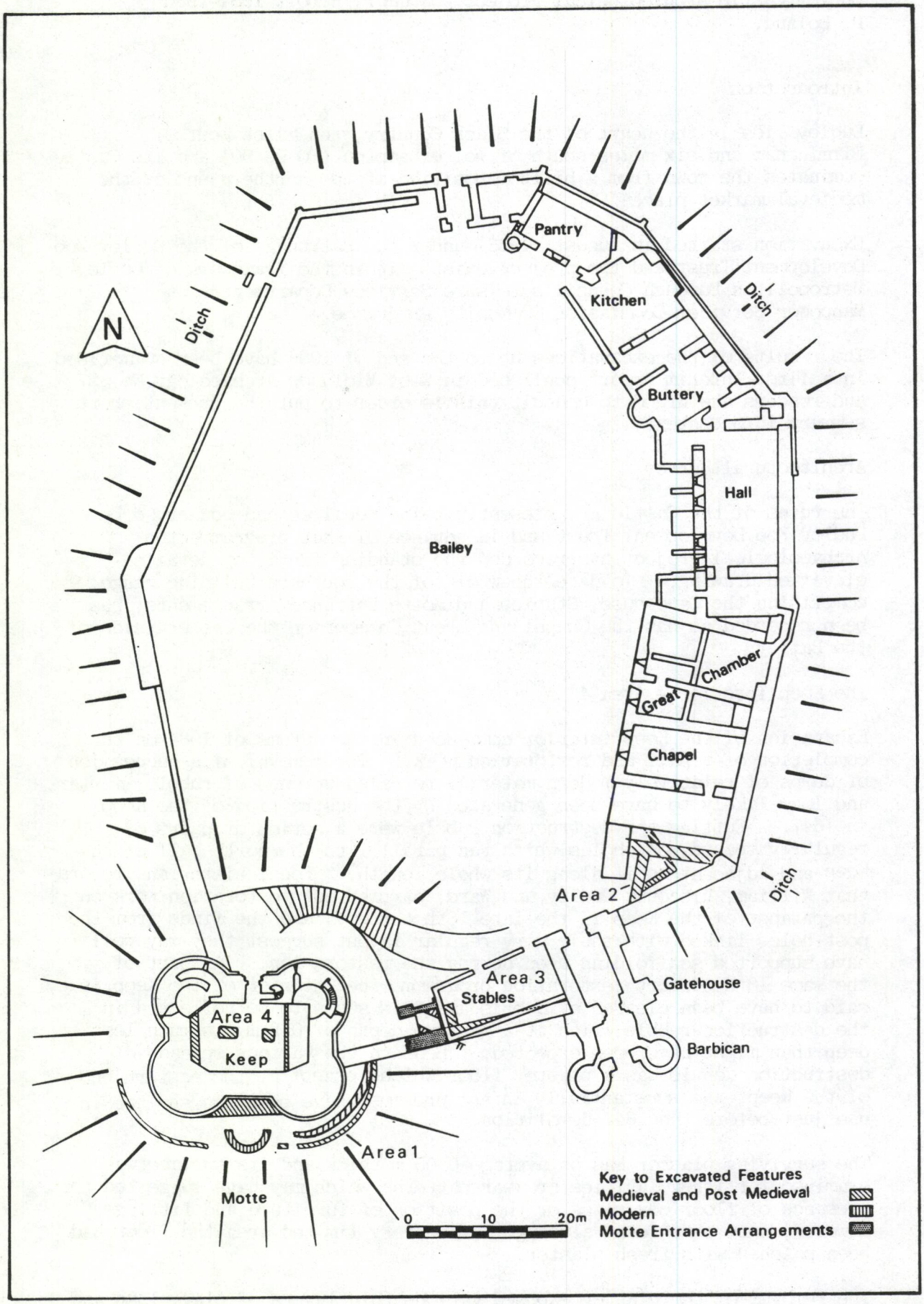


Figure 1.10 Dudley Castle : location plan.

been the final act in an extensive rearrangement of the Keep's basement since the plaster was laid up to and in some cases over at least three partition walls. The most notable of these ran across the whole width of the Keep effectively cutting off its eastern end from the main basement area, and at the western end of the Keep two further partition walls now cut off the interior of the drum towers from the rest of the basement.

A further alteration was the redesigning of the great fireplace in the Keep's southern wall. The back of the fireplace was lined with brick and the hearth area provided with limestone flagging which was edged by a kerb of vertically set limestone slabs. It seems that sandstone dressings from the original fire-place were removed since dressed blocks of red sandstone formed a base for the front of the new hearth and protruded from beneath it.

In the 16th century the interior of the Keep thus seems to have been radically altered at least at basement level and this may reflect a change in use. The replacement of what must have been an ornate sandstone fireplace with a more workmanlike version based on limestone and the final layout of the basement may suggest a move from accommodation to use as a kitchen. If the main room were the kitchen proper the partition screening off the eastern end of the Keep would have been effective in forming a Service Passage, leading to the stairs in the north eastern drum tower and thence to the Great Hall. This would have allowed the use of the ground floor of the eastern drum towers as Buttery and Pantry, whilst the closing off of the western towers may have suited them to more general storage.

It seems very likely that such a major alteration at this period was brought about by the construction of the Renaissance Range in the Bailey. Built in the 1530s, for the Duke of Northumberland, this not only provided a Great Hall, Great Chamber and Kitchen but extra high class accommodation and extensive servants' quarters. This must have had far-reaching implications for the role of the Keep and it is interesting to note that even by the 16th century the building was still deemed sufficiently important to warrant a major, and no doubt costly, refurbishment.

Excavation continued beneath the plaster floor and the removal of the relatively thin levelling layers used to form its base revealed a much more substantial surface consisting of various dumps of clay through which the 16th-century partition walls and the original sandstone facing of the great fireplace had been cut. The clay levels were some 0.5 m in depth and no doubt represented an initial levelling up for the 14th-century floor. However, no 14th-century floor surfaces survived the laying of the 16th-century plaster floor which respected the original threshold of the main entrance and directly overlay the stone bases of the drum towers.

Beneath the dumps of levelling material, some 0.7m below the threshold of the main entrance, was another level surface consisting of a relatively thin layer of yellow clay which contained a high concentration of quite large fragments of limestone. This was overlain by spreads of a red mortar such as was used in the construction of the Keep, the mortar being deepest against the walls of the Keep, thinning towards the centre. In many places the clay and limestone spreads did not extend right up to the Keep walls and alongside the western wall the removal of the overlying mortar exposed an offset foundation plinth housed in a narrow construction trench. Against the north wall a similar construction trench ran directly alongside the wall face, being sealed partly by the mortar and partly by the clay and limestone spreads.

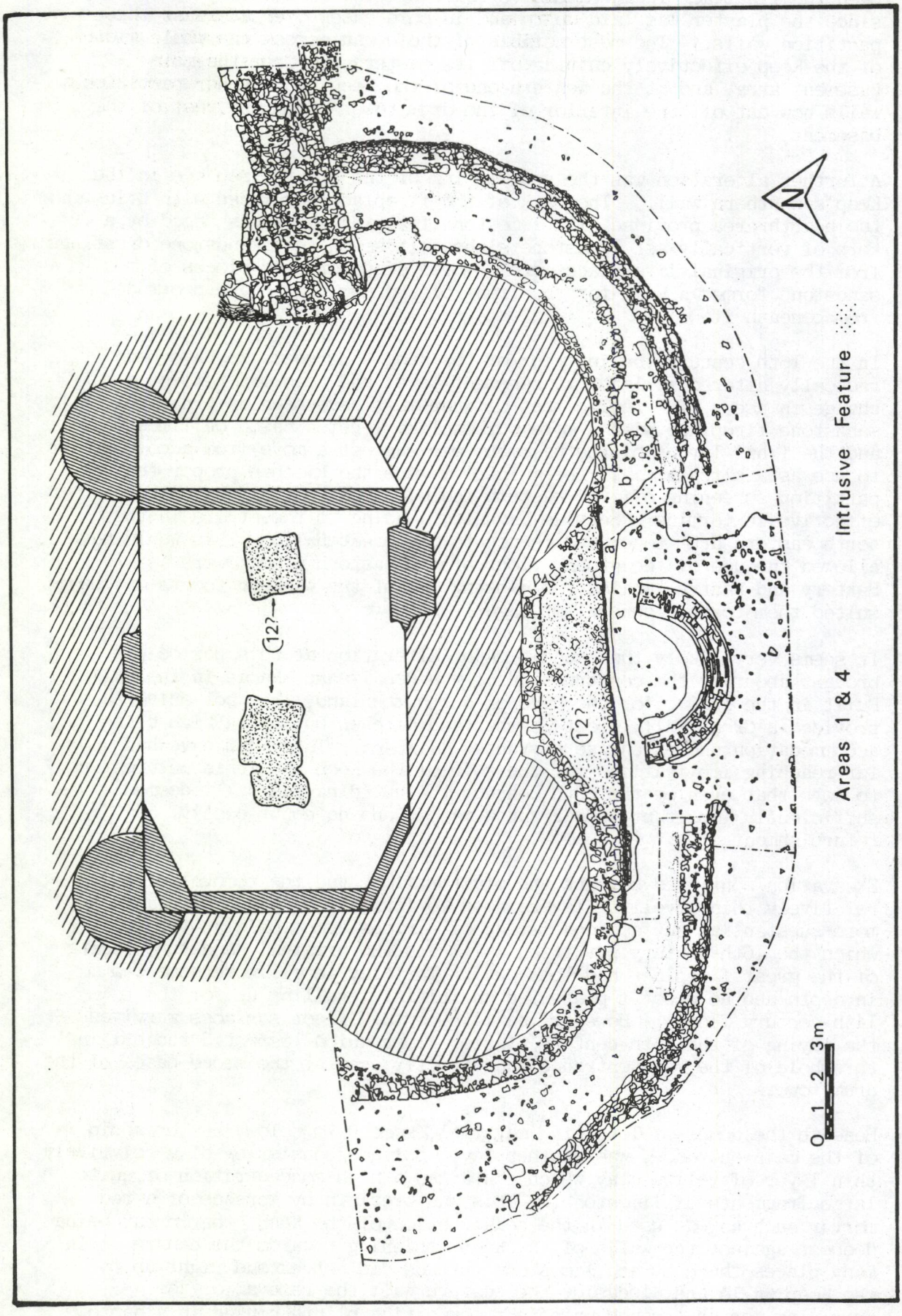


Figure 1.11 Dudley Castle : plan of motte and keep.

The mortar spreads and layers of clay and limestone thus seem to have been deposited immediately after the cutting of construction trenches to house the foundations of the 14th-century Keep. The combination of a plastic clay with fragments of limestone must have presented a very durable, if rough, surface and it seems very likely that it was specifically laid to improve conditions under foot whilst the Keep was in the initial stages of construction. The mortar overlying this surface then no doubt accumulated as building progressed, naturally being deeper against the base of the wall than elsewhere.

Excavation is continuing within the Keep and is now concerned with levels pre-dating its construction.

The Motte Top - Area 1 (See Fig.1.11).

As reported in West Midlands Archaeology No.27, excavation external to John de Somery's Keep, built around 1300, gradually revealed a layer of dense orange clay which had been levelled over rubble and other debris in order to provide a usable surface around the base of the tower. Over most of the area this was the limit of excavation since removal of the clay would have led to the destruction of the later 14th-century chemise wall. However excavation continued centrally where the chemise had already been destroyed by a modern brick emplacement and the area was extended to the west and east by trenches alongside the Keep foundations.

Removal of the orange clay exposed a layer of rubble, loam and red mortar which became much deeper on the eastern edge of the area where it filled a deep cut or gouge. This feature seems to have been very extensive, occupying the whole of the area adjacent to the foundations of the south eastern drum tower and extending beyond the limits of excavation (b on Fig.1.11).

Removal of the rubble and mortar also revealed a yellow and grey clay surface which was relatively flat alongside the Keep foundations but dropped away sharply some 2-3 m to the south to follow the contour of the motte side. Cutting through the clay surface was a trench (a on Fig.1.11) with a fill of mixed dirty clay which lay alongside a badly aligned masonry footing running at an angle between the drum towers and askew of the alignment of the Keep. This has been interpreted as being part of a 12th-century tower re-used as an offset foundation in combination with new curved footings for the 14th-century drum towers, and feature a is almost certainly its construction trench. The fact that the trench cut the yellow and grey clay surface suggests this formed the ground surface external to the 12th-century building and both this surface and the construction trench were cut by feature b, which had mortar at its base which was identical to that used to point the curved foundation of the 14th-century south eastern drum tower. Both these factors allied to its position, suggest that feature b was dug in the 14th century specifically to house the footings of the south eastern drum tower. The rubble and mortar used to backfill the feature as well as the more general spread in the rest of the area thus seem likely to have been generated by the construction of the 14th-century Keep. As suggested previously all this construction debris seems then to have been levelled over by dumps of clay designed to present a useful surface for use with the new tower.

At its western end the construction trench of the 12th-century footing terminated in a curve and it seems likely that at this point the footing had returned northward to form the western side of the earlier tower. Further evidence for the 12th-century Keep may thus be expected from

excavations in the interior of the later Tower and although the relevant levels have yet to be examined two very deep and substantial areas of masonry are already visible, having been sealed by the 16th-century plaster floor. These areas of masonry seem to have no connection with the present Keep and are earlier than all the levels so far excavated so that their interpretation is no doubt premature. However, it seems possible that they were associated with the 12th-century Keep, perhaps forming part of a cross-wall running down the centre of the building, which was cut down to below floor level when the 14th-century Keep was built (see Fig.1.11).

The Motte Entrance Arrangement and Stables - Area 1 and 3

To the east of the Keep and west of the Stables (stippled on Location Plan) is a deep masonry shaft or pit. Analysis of the standing masonry, reported in detail in W.M.A. No. 27, allows us to isolate two successive entrance arrangements leading from the Bailey to the Motte prior to the Civil War demolition and subsequent construction of the Stables in the late 17th century. Evidence for the first entrance arrangement, probably built around 1300 to serve John de Somery's new Keep, only survives in the eastern wall of the shaft, where a blocked archway may once have housed a flight of stairs running alongside the southern curtain wall. Recent excavations beneath the floor of the Stables in front of this archway have revealed a large rectangular pad of masonry, abutting the southern curtain wall, which could have formed a base for the stairs (see Location Plan).

The northern and western walls of the masonry shaft represent additions to the original entrance and it is this building programme which creates the shaft itself. The new access was probably via a flight of stairs from the Bailey to the top of the original arch and thence across the newly formed shaft, which would have acted as a drawbridge pit, to the Motte top. This new arrangement seems to have been built in the later 14th century and was linked to chemise walls which provided a concentric defence for the Keep.

During 1983 and 1984 the excavation of deposits infilling the masonry shaft progressively exposed the northern elevation of the southern curtain wall and it became apparent that two phases of curtain wall building were represented (Fig.1.12). The bulk of the masonry belonged to the 14th-century curtain wall which was associated with the primary Motte entrance arrangement, but beneath this at the base of the masonry shaft was a fragment of an earlier curtain wall which ran from east to west before stepping down in a ragged termination which was overlain by a dump of clay and rubble. In combination the clay and rubble and earlier wall presented a surface on top of which the 14th-century curtain wall had been founded. The earlier curtain wall thus appears to have been breached and overlain by destruction material before being incorporated in a 14th-century rebuilding. Given the known history of the site it seems extremely likely that the early wall is 12th century and that its destruction reflects the slighting of the castle by order of Henry II in 1175.

During 1984 and 1985 excavation within the Stables and Masonry Shaft continued through levels pre-dating the extant walls. When the shaft was first constructed it had cut down and used as a base a layer of mixed yellow clay whose removal exposed a series of dumps of dense brown clay much admixed with limestone and sandstone rubble which often bore traces of burning. This seems to have been destruction material since it sealed a structure which was similarly constituted and took the form of two walls running parallel to each other and diagonally across the base

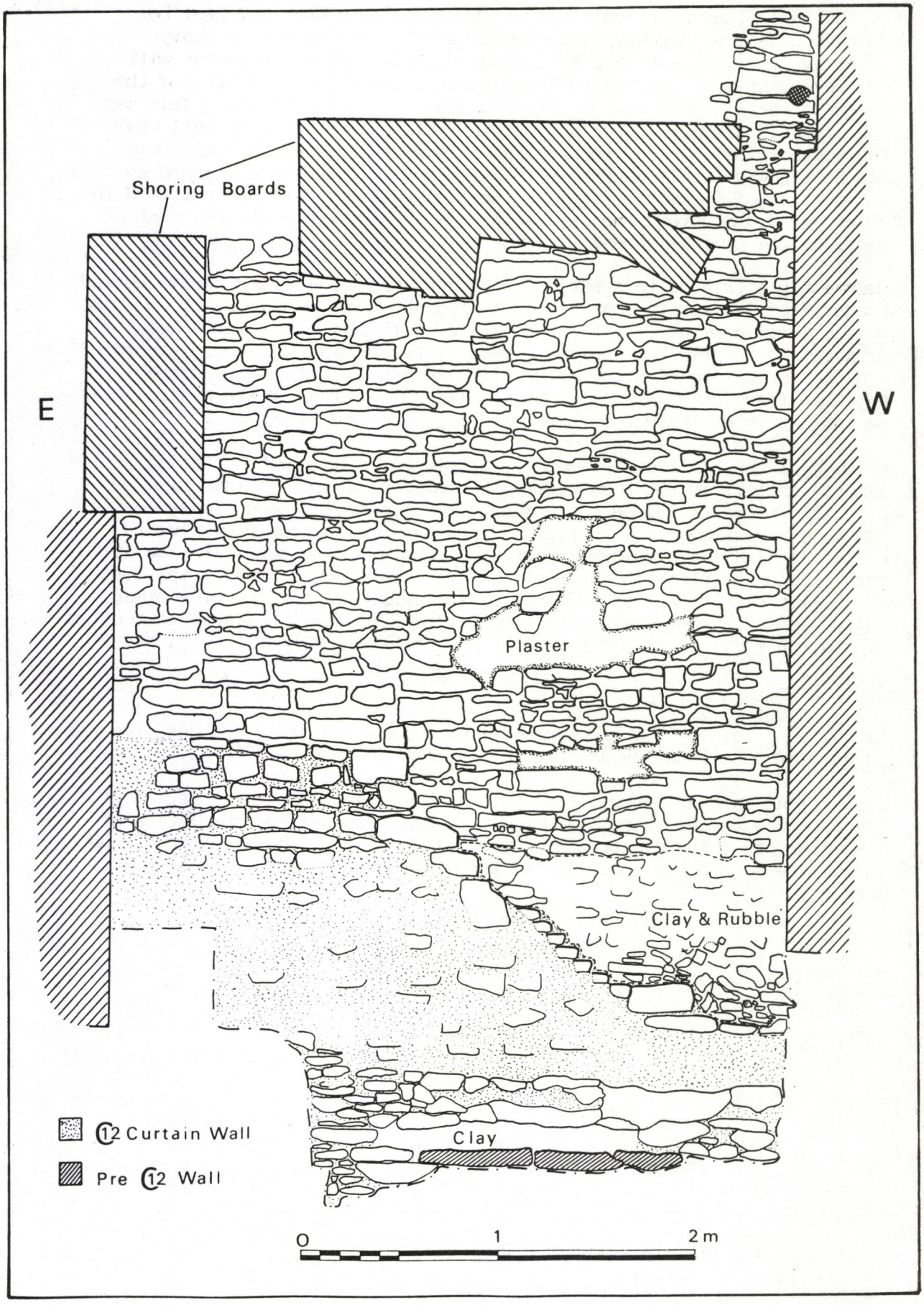


Figure 1.12 Dudley Castle : the motte entrance arrangements.

of the shaft (see Location Plan). These enclosed what may best be described as a passageway or corridor within which traces of heavy cobbling survived, set into the natural clay. The southernmost wall of the arrangement physically underlay the 12th-century element of the southern curtain wall and appeared to continue to the south. This was confirmed in a small trench dug outside the southern curtain wall where the southernmost side of the passageway was again picked up, although the passageway itself and the more northerly wall had been removed by the cutting of the Motte Ditch. The facing stones may have extended for a further 9.0 m beyond the excavated area judging by an abrupt break of slope on the same alignment visible in the Motte side.

Relatively little of this early arrangement has as yet been excavated and no detailed interpretation can be offered, however it is possible to make some general comments. It can be stated with some confidence that the arrangement is pre-12th century, however, there is no firm evidence to link the structure with the original Motte and Bailey, there were no dateable finds associated with it and its walls cut only the natural clay - so that it is entirely possible that it pre-dates the castle itself.

So much of the early arrangement is at present obscured by standing masonry that it is not possible to be confident as to its layout. Plausible reconstructions could range from its having been a massive entrance arrangement to its representing two very narrow rectangular buildings flanking a cobbled alleyway. Whatever its configuration it is very difficult to fit the arrangement into the known layout of the Motte and Bailey castle, and it is tempting to regard it as being pre-Norman, however only further excavation planned for 1986-1987 is likely to confirm or deny this.

Conclusions

Excavations in Area 1 are now complete and the area has been backfilled in advance of consolidation and presentation to the public.

Excavations during 1986 will involve examination of the remaining Motte Top areas to the south west and north of the Keep and the completion of its interior. The eventual aim is for the whole of the area around and inside the Keep to be consolidated and laid out for public access and display.

A note on a 'pewter' Anglo-Saxon brooch from Dudley Castle
Peter Boland and Roger Brownsword.

A small item of decorative 'pewter' (Fig.1.13),apparently a small brooch about two-thirds complete, was found during excavations at Dudley Castle. It was within a mixed layer of rubble, mortar and loam on the motte top to the south of the present keep. The layer has been interpreted as a construction deposit associated with the building of the keep and as such can be dated to the late 13th or early 14th century. Initially the brooch was assigned a slightly earlier date in line with burial during keep construction.

The style of the decoration however suggests a much earlier, pre-Conquest date. Several Anglo-Saxon 'pewter' brooches from the 10th century are known and one from London in the British Museum (MLA 1942(10-8)4), although larger, has a virtually identical motif on the central area with that of the Dudley Castle item, which however does not seem to be part of a larger brooch. The metal of the brooch has been analysed and shown to be an alloy of 69.1% lead and 30.9% tin. There is unfortunately no data on similar objects for comparison.

It seems that the presence of the brooch in the construction deposit can only reasonably be accounted for by its being a re-deposited item from an earlier initial deposit. The brooch seems to pre-date the motte and bailey and so may originally have been disturbed and re-deposited with the construction of the 11th-century earthworks. Such a chequered history and the rarity of Anglo-Saxon 'pewter' in the Midlands makes this an interesting object.

The authors are grateful to Leslie Webster for her comments on the item and to Roy Carey for the brooch analysis.

Figure 1.13 Dudley Castle : Anglo-Saxon brooch.

Scale 2:1

Sandwell Valley Archaeological Project
M. A. Hodder

Sandwell Priory and Hall Excavations

In 1985 the excavation of the east range and part of the west range of Sandwell Priory was completed. Further evidence was found for pre-medieval activity on the site, and the probable medieval and post-medieval sequence has been defined.

Prehistoric and Roman

Over 400 worked flints of mesolithic type have now been found on the site. The 1985 excavations also produced Iron Age and Roman pottery and part of a Roman fibula brooch, all from medieval or later deposits.

Sandwell Priory (Fig. 1.14)

Three medieval construction phases have been defined. The earliest buildings (Fig. 1.14A) consisted of a stone-built church with two stone rooms to its north. Further north, there was a substantial timber building; the bases of some of its posts were preserved in waterlogged deposits, and dendrochronology showed that one of them was from a tree felled in 1159-60. There is also evidence of timber buildings to the west. The timber structures were later replaced by stone buildings (Fig. 1.14B), including the chapter house at the north-east corner. Part of the west cloister walk was located; a drain alongside it contained fragments of the colonnade supporting the roof. These buildings were surrounded by a boundary ditch. At a later date, probably during the early 14th century (Fig. 1.14C) there were modifications to the east range. The boundary ditch was filled in and a room was added to the north of the range; it could have been the prior's lodging. The south wall of the chapter house was demolished and a wall was built across its eastern part. A drain on the east side of the wall may be part of the reredorter arrangements, serving the dorter on the first floor of this range. The room at the south end of the range, adjacent to the church, may have become the chapter house; it was extended to the east and contained at least three graves. Decay followed this phase of extension. The stone colonnade of the west cloister walk collapsed and was replaced by timber posts, and much of the prior's lodging may have collapsed. The church nave may have been left to collapse or have been demolished. This evidence is consistent with the delapidated state of the priory buildings in a survey of 1526.

Priory House and early Sandwell Hall

After the suppression of Sandwell Priory in 1524 the east range became a dwelling known as "Priory House'. Earth floors accumulated in the interior, and a timber shelter was erected in the ruins of the former prior's lodging (Fig. 1.14D). In 1567 the house was acquired by the Whorwood family, who became resident here. In 1611 it was described as Sandwell Hall. Renovations to the building c.1600 are attested archaeologically (Fig. 1.14E). The fallen walls of the former prior's lodging were rebuilt, and brick floors were laid in the interior of the whole of the east range, with associated fireplaces. Two stone walls in the former west range probably also belong to this period. The features attributable to this period in the area of the Priory church were described in the previous report (Hodder 1984, 30). The former Priory east range later became the west range of a new Sandwell Hall, constructed in the early 18th century (Fig. 1.14F).

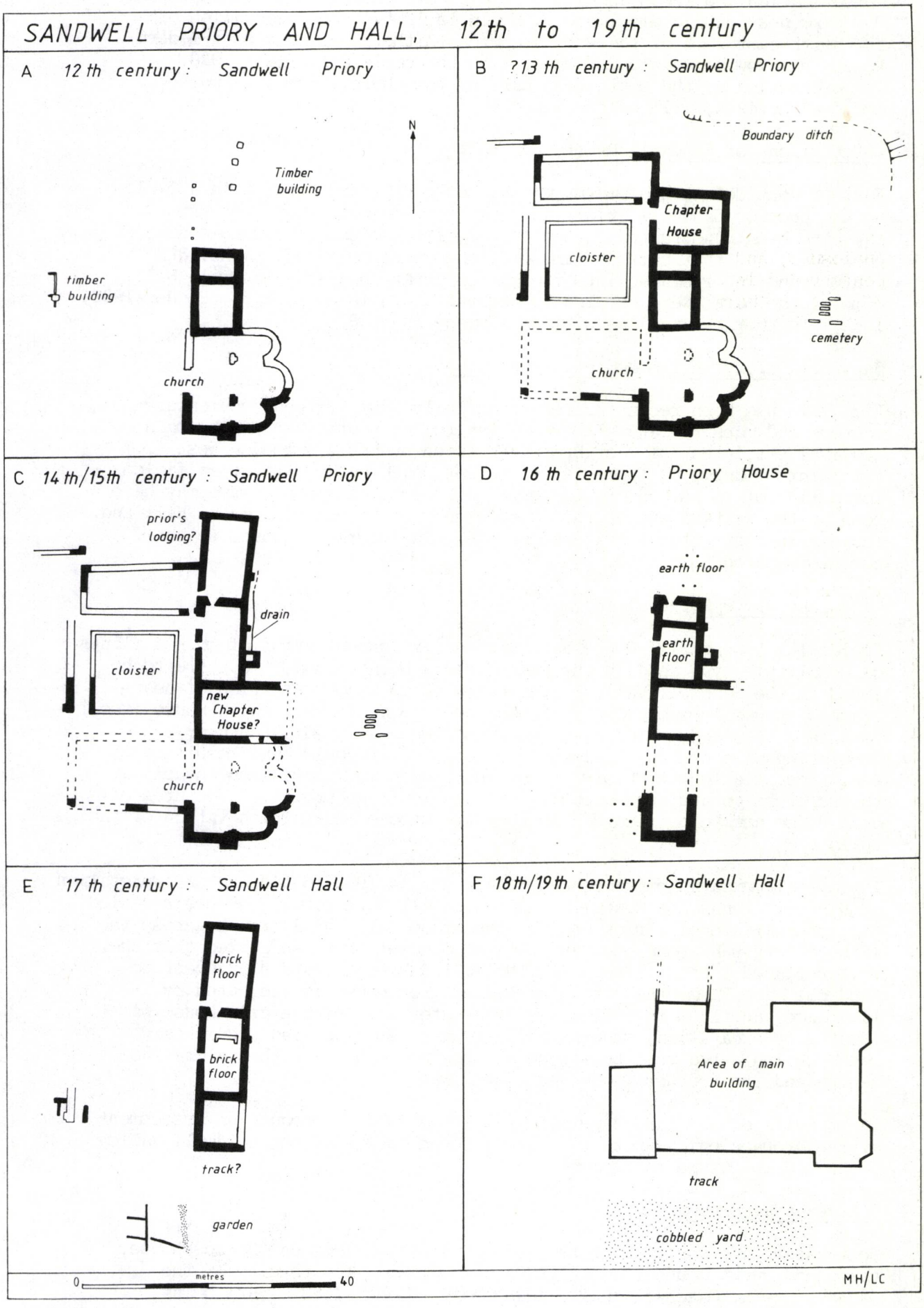


Figure 1.14 Sandwell Priory : the development of the Priory and the Hall.

Consolidation and landscaping of the excavated remains of the east range for permanent public display will begin in 1986. The excavation of the north-east part of the Priory church, hitherto covered by a modern track, has now begun and is expected to be completed in late 1986. The excavation of the south-west part of the church, now at a post-medieval horizon, will be continued.

The Environs of Sandwell Priory and Hall site

Further consideration of marks visible on aerial photographs in a field to the east of Sandwell Priory and Hall site suggests that the Priory may have been constructed in one corner of a pre-existing double-ditched enclosure, and that parts of these ditches were modified in the 18th century and incorporated into the garden arrangements of Sandwell Hall. Some of the marks were sampled by excavation in 1982 and 1983 (Hodder 1982; 1983); further excavations will take place in 1986.

Sandwell Priory in its Medieval landscape

Fig. 1.15 has been reconstructed principally from written documentary sources and maps. Sandwell Priory lay to the south-east of the main medieval settlement of West Bromwich, which probably extended west from All Saints' Church. There is sufficient space between the open fields for a line of tofts and crofts here. The original manor house may have been at the western end of this settlement, in the area known as Hall End. The earliest structural evidence at the existing manor house, to the north, is dated to c.1300.

Landscape survey (Fig. 1.16)

Fieldwalking near Hill House Farm produced a concentration of worked flints of Mesolithic type, and in the same field a burnt mound, the third to be found in the Sandwell Valley, was indicated by a concentration of heat-cracked stones in the ploughsoil, adjacent to a stream. Hill House itself is a late 16th-century close-studded and square-framed structure, consisting of a central hall and two wings. It could have been the residence of a former Priory tenant who bought up Priory land cheaply at the suppression and subsequently let or sold it at profit. Features of Hill House are being recorded as they are exposed during renovation of the building.

Three small excavations were undertaken during 1985 to aid the interpretation of historic landscape features. At Sandwell Park Farm, trenches revealed the worn surface of a rickyard and sandstone walls. A trench across the 18th-century sandstone boundary wall of Sandwell Park suggested that the wall replaced a hedge line. In the walled kitchen garden adjacent to Sandwell Park Farm, the site of a heated greenhouse is indicated by a fireplace and flues in the wall. The outer wall of the greenhouse was located by excavation, showing that it was 4.6m wide, and documentary research indicated that this type of greenhouse had a hotbed along the centre and fruit trees along the heated wall.

The results of the landscape survey will be used to produce an assessment of the archaeological potential of different parts of the Sandwell Valley as an aid to future management.

Post-excavation work

Post-excavation analysis of the Project's excavations on the ice-house, ha-ha and burnt mound (Hodder 1982) has begun. The results of the excavations at Oakeswell Hall, Wednesbury (Hodder 1983 b) are being prepared for publication.

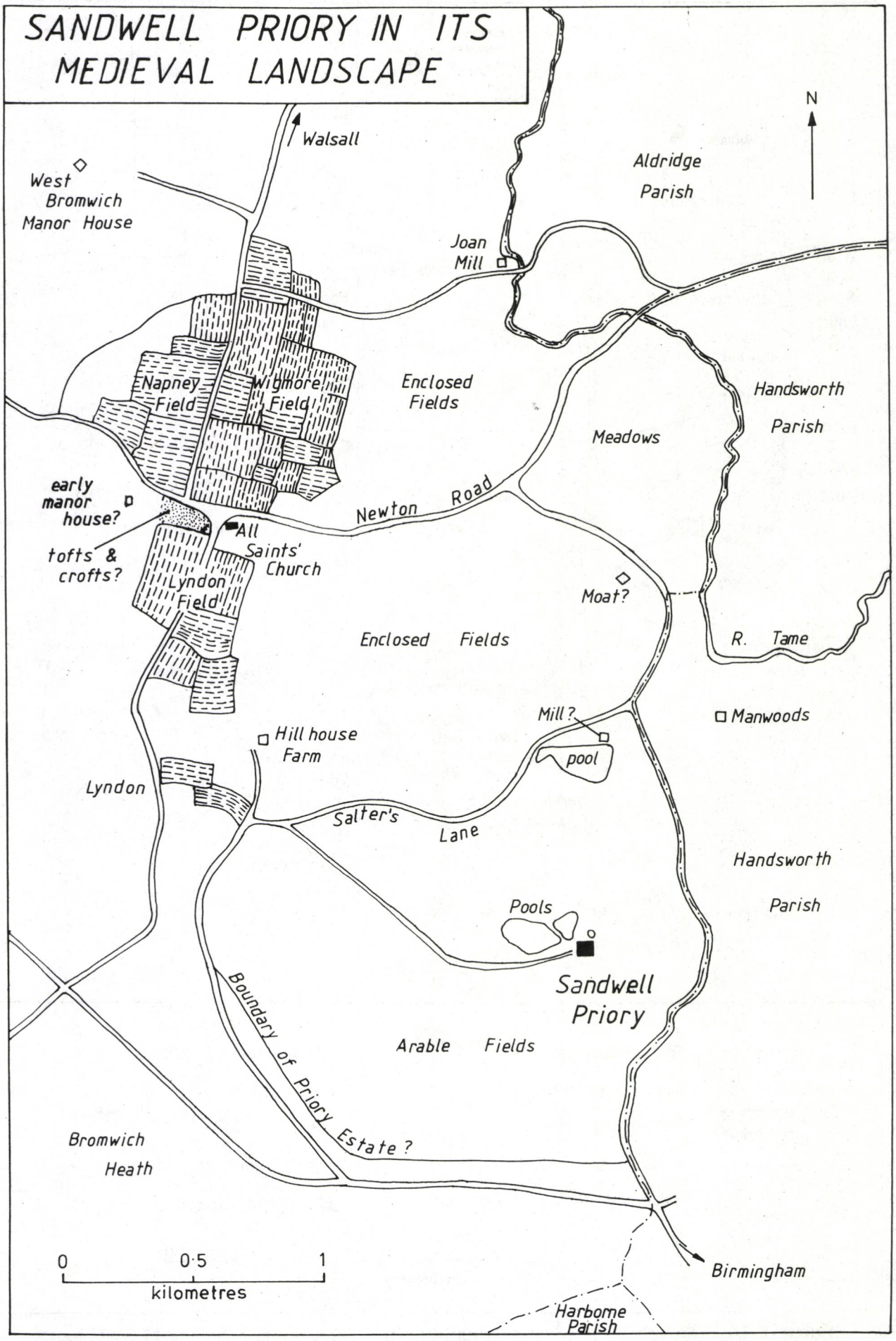


Figure 1.15 Sandwell Priory : the medieval landscape.

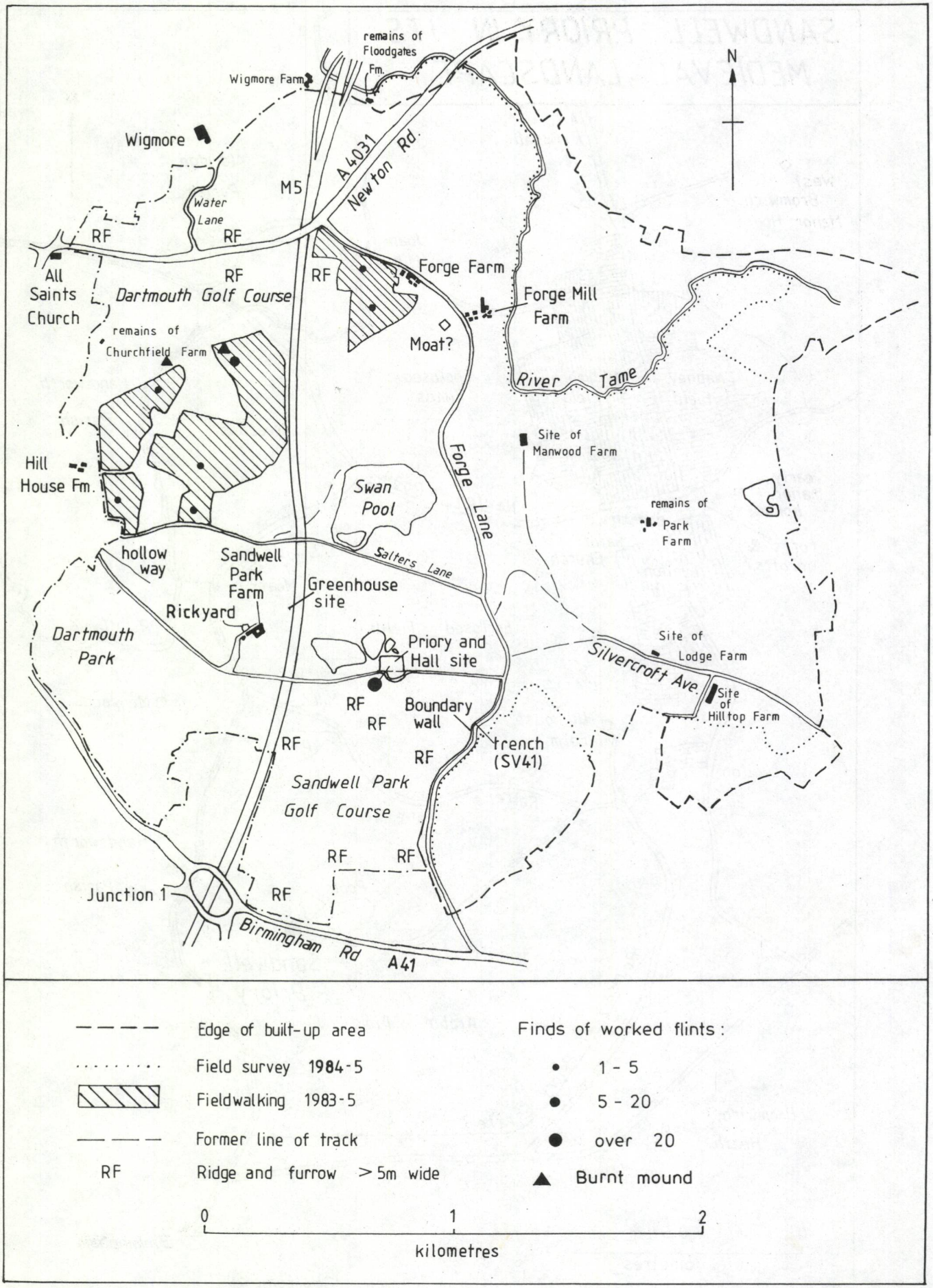


Figure 1.16 Sandwell Priory : location of sites in the Sandwell Valley.

Public Presentation

During 1985 displays of flints and medieval floor tiles were mounted in the exhibition area at Sandwell Park Farm, and over 1,000 people visited the Priory site during two Open Days in August. A museum to display the archaeology and history of the Sandwell Valley is under construction adjacent to Sandwell Park Farm.

The promotion of the educational value of the Project's work continues. A computer-based learning package about the excavation of Sandwell Priory and Hall has been developed by staff at a local Teachers Centre.

Acknowledgements

During 1985, excavations were supervised by Simon Jeffery, Chris Jones and Steve Webster, finds by Jenny Glazebrook, post-excavation work by Lesley Collett, and landscape survey by Nicky Hewitt. The figures for this report were drawn by Lesley Collett.

References

Hodder, M.A. 1982 Sandwell, West Midlands Archaeology 25, 90-96

Hodder, M.A. 1983a Sandwell Valley, West Midlands Archaeology 26, 113-117

Hodder, M.A. 1983b Wednesbury, West Midlands Archaeology 26, 121-123

Hodder, M.A. 1984 Sandwell Valley Archaeological Project. West Midlands Archaeology 27, 25-37.

Recent field walking in the Dene Valley, Warwickshire
A. McKay.

A programme of field-walking has been carried out on a 5 km stretch of the Dene Valley between Fosse Bridge (SP 291508) and Banbury Road Farm (SP 345505). This work, which has been in progress for the past year, has greatly increased our knowledge of Roman sites in the area of the central Warwickshire Avon. The Dene is a major tributary of the River Avon, and drains a large portion of eastern Warwickshire. Gravel terraces related to the Avon system occur along its length, somewhat discontinuously, along with the outcrops of Mercian Mudstone (formerly known as Keuper Marl) and White Lias. The area that was walked coincided with the valley bottom and the slopes above it. The prospection of sites was as follows:

Each field was walked immediately after ploughing. Due to the lack of manpower, the fields were not gridded. Instead, upon entering a field, careful observation would reveal stone scatters and other surface anomalies; these were then examined in detail. The information recovered was then matched up with material already in the County Sites and Monuments Record in the form of cropmarks etc., where any such information existed.

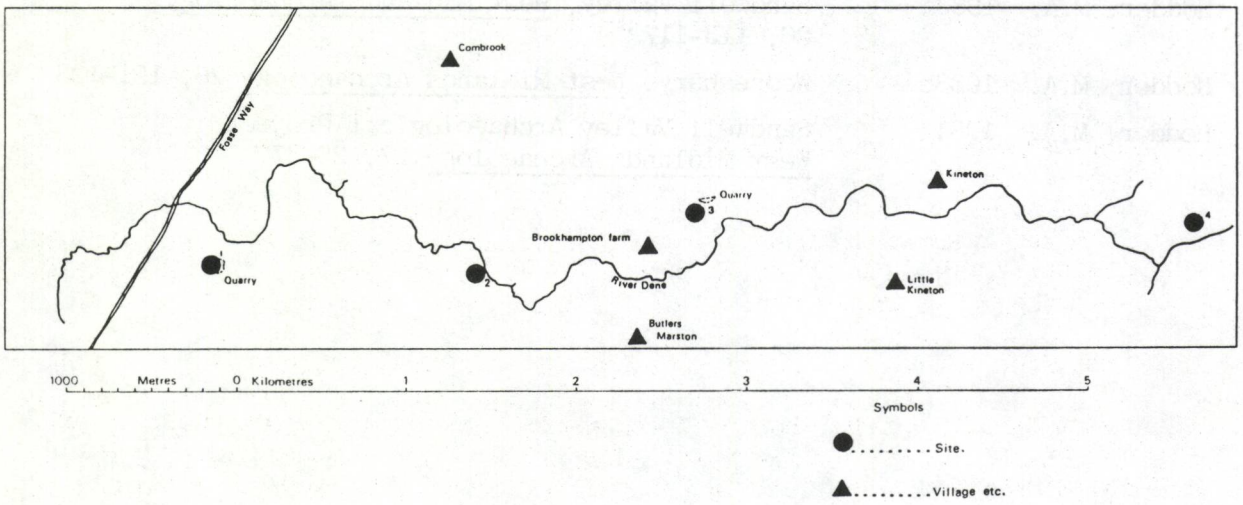


Figure 1.17 The Dene Valley, Warwickshire.

Site 1. Lower Fosse Farm

Situated within 500 m of the Fosse Way, this site comprises a large stone scatter. It is situated on the crest of the rise above the River Dene and almost abuts a disused quarry dug into the side of the slope. Many of the stones were flat slabs and appeared to have been shaped. The site covers a central area of about 400 sq. m, tapering off into smaller scatters outside this. No brick and tile fragments were recovered. Large amounts of early Roman pottery, including quantities of samian ware, were found within the central area; much of the pottery was in good condition. Outside this area, more of the pottery tended to be coarse wares and these were generally in poorer condition. The site appears to be relatively undamaged. Little further information has been recovered, none concerning the economy or social status of the site. There are no cropmarks relating to this feature.

Site 2. Lobbington Farm

This site is situated on the south bank of the Dene, adjacent to a water meadow. It lies in an isolated small field, bounded on the south by a field under permanent pasture, which contains pronounced ridge and furrow, a holloway, and other features of unknown date and function. The field to the west contains a post-medieval 'dump', areas of stone scatters and small quarries. The soil in the small field appears to be very rich and dark, in contrast to that in the surrounding area. On first observation, 2 large stone scatters were visible in the field, where it rises above the flood-plain. The more northerly scatter appears to be related to quarrying in the field immediately to the west. The site, the more southerly scatter, covers a sub-rectangular area approximately 20 m x 10 m. The stones appear to have been worked; many had been burnt. Some of the stone had been used as 'tesserae'. Finds included pottery and animal bone. The pottery appears to be later Roman: black burnished ware, coarse grey wares, mortaria and colour coated wares; Severn Valley ware also occurs in small quantities and there was little samian. Much brick and tile was also found. On the basis of the finds, this appears to have been the site of a villa, or other wealthy rural settlement of the 2nd to 4th century.

On the north bank of the River Dene, immediately north of the above site, records in Warwick Museum state that metal finds - coins, fibulae, rings and pins - dating to the Roman period, were found during quarrying in the 19th century. Field-walking produced only a few potsherds, which came mainly from the quarry pits. These pits have now been backfilled, and the field ploughed. The absence of stone scatters may be explained by the quarrying. Alternatively, this may not have been a settlement area, but may have been reserved for burial.

Site 3. Brookhampton

This site appeared as an undated cropmark in the County Sites and Monuments Record (PRN WA 4530). It is situated north of the River Dene, northeast of Butlers Marston, 600 m east of Brookhampton itself. The cropmark shows a large rectangular enclosure, with internal divisions and smaller enclosures inside. Field walking was carried out, initially in ignorance of the existence of the cropmark evidence, during September 1984, after the field had been drilled. The site was first recognised as a scatter of Romano-British material. More detailed field examination revealed a dense scatter of worked stone, brick, tile and large quantities of pottery - especially mortaria, samian and grey wares - and bone, some of it worked. The site is situated on level ground apparently deliberately terraced into the hillside, overlooking the southeast. The ground is well-drained and permeable. This appears to be a large villa site. Unfortunately, the farmer has allowed almost uninterrupted access to metal detector users, who have removed large numbers of metal objects without record. The site has now been deep-ploughed for a period of about 12 years. This has resulted in the destruction of a great deal of the site. This destruction can be easily seen: less of the site remains after each ploughing. There is now a lynchet 1 m high at the bottom of the field! It is hoped that some approaches can be made, to the farmer and/or HBMC, to prevent further destruction.

Site 4. Banbury Road Farm

The last site occurs close to the course of the River Dene. Field walking was carried out initially in September, 1985. First observations showed the presence of many stone scatters; subsequent survey was carried out at a much more detailed level with more volunteers, including personnel from Warwick Museum. There are 10 stone scatters in the first field; all appear to be building plots, including one which is richer, larger and has produced much brick and tile. This large building has also produced lots of fine wares, the spout of a bronze 'Petara' dish (these often have religious associations), and amphora fragments. The other stone scatters are strung out in two parallel lines, as if fronting onto a street. The standard of finds is not so high: colour coated wares, Severn Valley ware and grey wares predominate; one building also produced large fragments of mortaria. Among a pile of stones removed from the site during ploughing was the bottom stone of a rotary quern, and various other pieces of worked stone. Coins and other finds have been found on this site during the last century.

The field immediately to the north is, unfortunately, under permanent pasture. As a result, no finds were made during field survey. However, the farmer has, in the past, dug drainage ditches across the field, turning up numbers of coins, a fibula, mortaria, samian etc., indicating that the site extends to the northern limit of the field.

At present, the site appears to be well preserved, although, again, there is the threat of metal detector users removing finds without record.

The fields around and between these sites have all been walked. Although the survey has been relatively non-intensive, it has recovered important evidence concerning the Romano-British settlement of this area of Warwickshire, especially at the upper end of the economic scale. Villa sites are rare in Warwickshire, yet in this short stretch of the Dene Valley at least 3 previously unknown sites have been discovered. Hopefully, work in future seasons will add to this total, and also provide more information about the sites that are known. This survey has concentrated on Romano-British settlements which produce readily recognisable material; next season we hope to extend the survey to pick up Romano-British sites of a lower social order, as well as recovering Iron Age and earlier material.

I would like to thank Mr. D. Kelly, Miss S. Partridge, Mr. J. Partridge and Mrs. E. Partridge for helping with the survey, Mr. R. Hingley at Warwick Museum for help and advice, and Mr. G. Crawford for commenting on the text.

2 West Midlands Archaeology in 1985

Hereford and Worcester

DROITWICH, Crutch Lane (SO 904638; HWCM 4154)

During January, 1985 a small excavation was carried out on the site of a proposed housing development at Crutch Lane, Droitwich. Aerial photographs (NMR Ref: SO 9063/5) showed a feature whose form and location suggested that it was the ditch of a Roman temporary camp. This feature was located and excavated. It had an "ankle-breaker" slot in the base and may have been recut several times. It contained few finds. Stratigraphically it pre-dated a second ditch, probably a field boundary, which contained post-medieval pottery. The limited extent of the excavation makes conclusions on the precise date and function of the earlier ditch at present impossible, but it is hoped that in the future further work will take place in advance of development nearby.

Simon Woodiwiss, Archaeology Department, Hereford and Worcester County Council.

DROITWICH, Netherwich (SO 896636; HWCM 602)

During October, 1985 a watching brief was carried out on the construction of a canal marina in the Netherwich area of Droitwich. Pottery of all periods from the Iron Age onwards was recovered from about 3 metres of stratified deposits. The range of deposits and finds was similar to that recorded from the excavation at Upwich (HWCM 4575). Finds included hand-made and stamp-decorated Saxon pottery. The marina covers the most probable location of the Middlewich brine pits which were last mentioned in documents of the sixteenth century. Several of the structures observed may be associated with these brine pits.

Simon Woodiwiss, Archaeology Department, Hereford and Worcester County Council.

EATON BISHOP, Eaton Camp (SO 453392; HWCM 907)

Eaton Camp is a partially multivallate Iron Age hillfort, with a commanding position in the Wye Valley, 5 km west of Hereford and 5 km south of the hillfort at Credenhill (figure 2.1). A triangular area of land defined by the Wye and the Cage Brook creates a natural promontory with a drop of c. 60 m on the north and south sides. The promontory is defended on the west side by two ramparts, of which the inner is more complete. The banks have a rounded, weathered profile, with adjacent ditches, 32 m apart. The inner bank is c. 22 m wide, the outer c. 14 m and both are weathered and spread. No obvious entrance survives although it is likely that this would have been placed centrally, or at the northwest corner. In the latter case, it would have been destroyed when the Camp Inn was constructed.

During March, 1985 the Central Excavation Unit was asked to excavate a narrow trench, 25 m x 4 m in extent, through part of the inner rampart, since scheduled monument consent had been given for an extension of the Camp Inn. Given the constraints imposed by the position and extent of

the trench, it was possible to propose only a limited research strategy. There were three main objectives:

1. To determine the date and the nature of the inner rampart's construction.

2. To recover environmental material relevant to the use of the site.

3. To assess the survival of evidence for domestic or other activity inside the fort.

Unfortunately, the width of the trench was less than the usual spacing of timber revetments in Iron Age ramparts. In addition at the east end of the trench activity associated with a 19th - 20th century smithy had removed any trace of earlier structures.

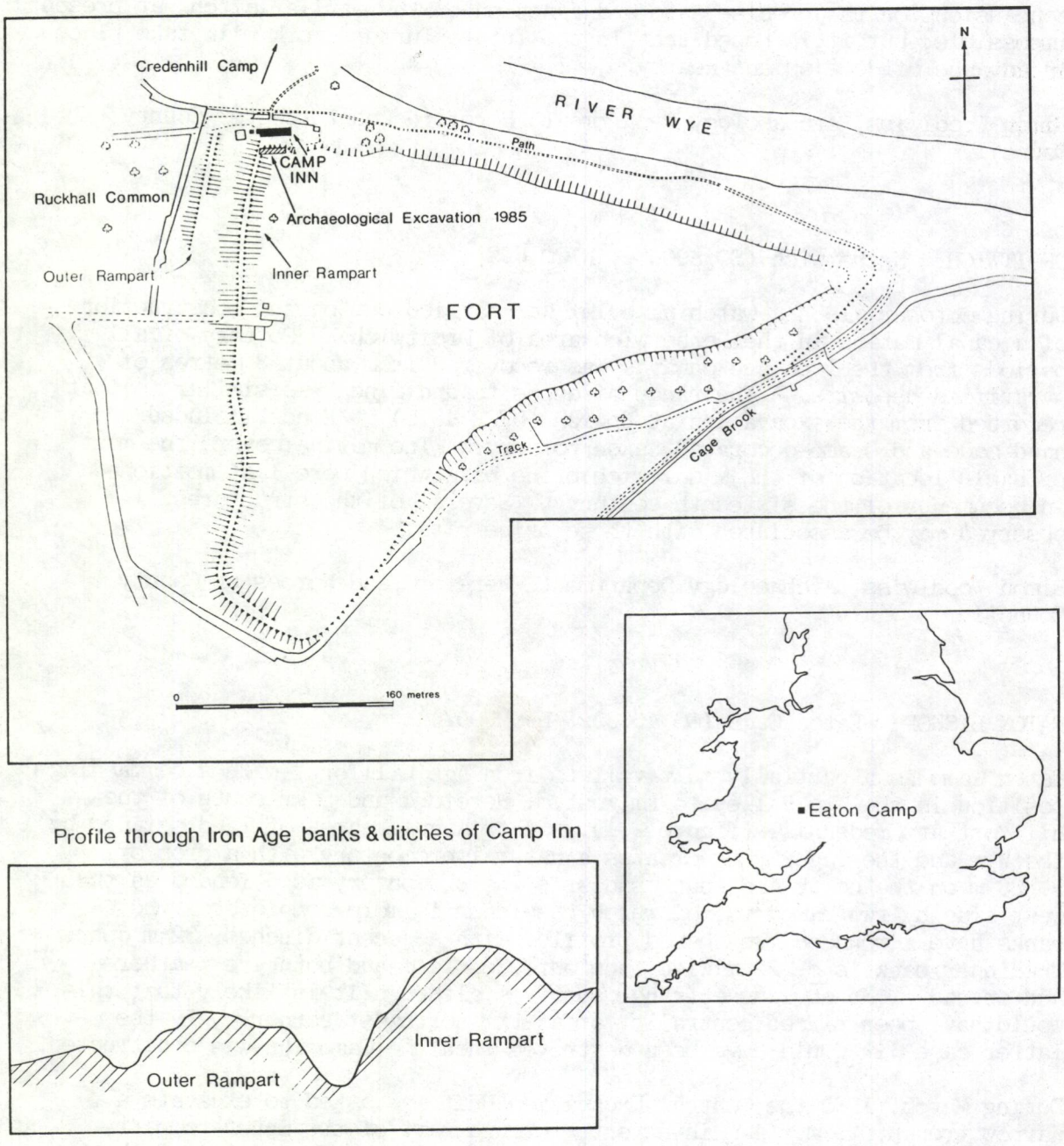


Figure 2.1 The Iron Age Fort at Eaton Camp.

The inner rampart in the section examined was of simple dump construction of clay and stone with some larger (river) boulders. Artefacts were few but the bank sealed a horizon consisting of fragments of burnt bone and charcoal stratified above the contemporary ground surface. This layer was concentrated towards the centre of the bank and it is hoped that a radiocarbon date from it will provide a terminus post quem for the construction of the bank. The layer might represent occupation in an open environment, prior to the construction of the defensive banks and ditches. In this case it may be that earlier material from within the subsequently enclosed area was used as make-up for the inner bank. On the other hand, the outer bank may have been constructed first and contemporary midden material levelled under the base of the inner bank. This sequence could only be demonstrated by a section through both banks.

Dermot Bond, Central Excavation Unit.

HAGLEY, Field Survey

In 1985 a programme of field survey was begun in the parish of Hagley. The County Sites and Monuments Record at the Archaeology Department was consulted first, and work was then begun on the 1837 tithe map (from which field names were collected), and the first and subsequent editions of the Ordnance Survey 6" maps. The first area to be examined in the field was the south eastern slope of Wychbury Hill, where ridge and furrow, platforms, green roads, field boundaries and fish ponds were identified. Hagley Wood and the Lutley boundary yielded more ridge and furrow, boundary banks and a green road which may be the earlier Dudley-Bromsgrove road which passed by Halesowen.

Hagley Park provided a variety of features, including a group of house platforms adjacent to the route of the old main road, which was replaced 200 years ago by the present-day A.456 on Hagley Hill.

The final area to be examined was the "Brake", much of which was the subject of the 1830 Enclosure Act. Some documentary evidence is available to link with the field evidence, and this may be a good area in which to test the hedge dating theory.

Future plans include recording more of the features identified, a detailed report on the ridge and furrow, a survey of the group of house platforms, and a survey of the Brake Mill site.

T. W. Pagett.

KEMERTON, Bredon Hill Camp (SO 95604010; HWCM 3943)

In Spring 1985, scheduled monument consent was given by the Department of the Environment for the excavation of a trench for an electricity cable through the widely spaced inner and outer ramparts of the iron age hillfort, Bredon Hill Camp. SMC was given on the condition that the excavation was observed by the Archaeology Department, Hereford and Worcester County Council and that the sections were recorded.

The work was subsequently carried out without prior notice being given to the Department, and the contractors were later required to re-open the trench to allow archaeological recording to take place.

During the excavations in 1935-7, (Hencken 1938) little of the area between the inner and outer ramparts was examined, and since then the suggested chronological relationship between them has been questioned. It is clear from the trench sections recorded so far that there is a density of archaeological features in the northwestern area between the two ramparts; sections through both ramparts will also be obtained.

Hencken 1938 T.C. Hencken, The Excavation of the Iron Age Camp on Bredon Hill, Gloucestershire, 1935-37, Archaeological Journal 95, 1-111.

J. Wills, Archaeology Department, Hereford and Worcester County Council.

LEINTWARDINE, Site of Roman Baths (SO 40387390; HWCM 1021)

The modern village of Leintwardine in northwest Herefordshire occupies the site of a Roman settlement, thought to be the Bravonium of the Antonine Itinerary (Rivet and Smith 1979). This lay on Watling Street West, the major north-south route through the area in the Roman period, at the point where the road crossed the River Teme, and at the confluence of the Rivers Clun and Teme.

Excavations to the south of and adjacent to the Roman settlement in 1964 and 1967 revealed a bath house in use from the 2nd to the 4th century. There was also some evidence of earlier Roman activity on the same site, pre-dating the construction of the bath house. The bath house was enclosed by a timber laced rampart, forming an annexe on the southern side of the settlement (Stanford 1968, 279-294).

In 1985 scheduled monument consent was granted to Messrs. W. and C.A. Griffiths for the construction of a new bus garage on the site of the baths. Twelve small foundations pits, approximately 1 m square and 1-1.5 m deep were excavated by machine for the foundations of the new buildings. As a condition of scheduled monument consent the excavation was observed and the sections recorded. The small size of the pits excavated, and the destruction of most of the deposits along the southern side of the site by a recent drain and its construction trench, restricted the conclusions which could be drawn from the archaeological deposits observed.

Along the western edge of the site was a thick deposit of grey clay, with a concentration of charcoal at its base. This accords well with the description given by Stanford of the rampart enclosing the bath house, although no evidence of timbers was observed. A body sherd of Severn Valley ware was recovered from the clay, and a sample of charcoal for radiocarbon dating was obtained from the base of this layer.

Rivet and Smith 1979 A.L.F. Rivet and Colin Smith, The Place-Names of Roman Britain, London 1979.

Stanford 1968 S.C. Stanford, The Roman Forts at Leintwardine and Buckton, in Transactions of the Woolhope Naturalists Field Club, Vol. XXXIX, Part II 1968, 222-326.

J. Wills, Archaeology Department, Hereford and Worcester County Council.

Shropshire

BROSELEY (SJ 702021)

A geophysical survey of the River Severn between the Coalport bridge and the Severn Warehouse, Ironbridge was undertaken in conjunction with the Stonycove diving club. A proton magnetometer with floating fish was used to map anomalies, of which the most significant were opposite the Coalport China Works and at a wharf upstream of Coalport Bridge. Underwater investigation downstream of Coalport Bridge revealed evidence for wharves, revetments, and traces of cargoes such as Maws tiles.

K. Clarke, Ironbridge Gorge Museum Archaeology Unit.

DONNINGTON (SJ 683061)

The Archaeology Unit has recorded the vandalised remains of a dome-shaped, brick-built structure of internal dimensions 2.65 m height and 2.5 m diameter. This is thought to have been a level-crossing keeper's shelter, probably associated with a mineral working railway and of nineteenth century date. Such structures rarely survive.

D. Brookes, A. Scott-Davies, Ironbridge Gorge Museum Archaeology Unit.

JACKFIELD (SH 685603)

Excavation and a watching brief were carried out on the site of the Cannon Boring Mill and Iron Foundry at Calcutts (W.M.A. 27, 1984, 65). Brick and stone foundations were recorded in section in contractor's trenches, together with a partially collapsed vaulted brick structure similar to that excavated in 1984. Excavation uncovered waste dumps and saggars which predated the ironworks.

D. Brookes, A.P. Simpson, Ironbridge Gorge Museum Archaeology Unit.

LILLESHALL, Lilleshall Abbey (SJ 737143)

Two seasons of excavation were undertaken in the frater to reduce its level, for display purposes, to that of the rest of the monument, and to reveal the original monastic floor. At the lowest level excavated a stone lined drain of roughly worked sandstone blocks traversed the site from north-west to south-east and fed into a culvert in the eastern wall. Above this feature were a series of disturbed mortar floor surfaces built on layers of silt/sand make-up. These floor layers produced sherds of green glazed 13th - 15th century pottery.

Sealing these surfaces were layers of post-Dissolution rubble and sand containing fragments of Staffordshire late wares and slip wares, Midlands yellow, black glazed and mottled/combed ware. These layers represent the demolition/disuse of a cottage which made use of the north and south walls of the frater as its gable ends. Within this debris a lead smelting hearth was revealed. It seems likely that this hearth had been used for making lead shot during the siege of the abbey in 1645 as it appeared to be temporary in nature and there was a large amount (over 2 kg) of lead spillage associated with it. Sealing these 17th century deposits were layers of dark organic soil. The uppermost layer was divided into beds by gravel paths with brick borders. This garden is

known to have been in use for serving afternoon teas to abbey visitors as recently as the 1940s, before the area was turfed when the monument passed into guardianship in the 1950s.

T. J. Crump, Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission.

LITTLE DAWLEY (SJ 683059)

Dismantling of the standing buildings at 15/15A Holly Road was completed (W.M.A. 26, 1983, 104-6) and excavation continued. This included the removal of demolished nineteenth and twentieth century lean-to features at the rear of the standing buildings. Eighteenth and nineteenth century rubbish pits and soil horizons were removed and the investigation of medieval features, including a ?bloomery, ?destruction deposits and a plough-horizon, continues.

A. P. Simpson, Ironbridge Gorge Museum Archaeology Unit.

LITTLE DAWLEY (SJ 683061)

Recording under rescue conditions of buildings at 27/28 Holly Road was undertaken, following an unopposed application to demolish them. The demolition operations revealed a mid-seventeenth century timber core encased within a brick skin. Interior details included cable-patterned painting of some timber rails, framing a surviving panel of florally-decorated plaster.

J. Alfrey, D. Cant, K. Stone, Ironbridge Gorge Museum Building Recording Team and Institute of Archaeology.

RED HILL (SJ 731109)

A fieldwalking exercise was carried out after ploughing took place on the site of the Roman roadside settlement of Uxacona. Finds recovered included second to fourth century pottery; a dupondius of the early empire; and a flint arrowhead, but no building materials. The bulk of the material was found across Watling Street opposite the settlement site.

A. Simpson, Ironbridge Gorge Museum Archaeology Unit.

WROXETER, St. Andrew's Church (SJ 56330825)

St. Andrew's Church at Wroxeter in Shropshire is a partially Anglo-Saxon church situated in the southwest corner of the defences of the large Roman town, and is part of the medieval landscape of a shrunken village and its associated field systems.

The unused church was falling into disrepair when, in 1985, it was taken into the hands of the Redundant Churches Fund, whose aim is to preserve and display smaller churches of great architectural and historical value.

With a grant from English Heritage, a programme of restoration was begun in September, 1985. Because of the destructive nature of some of the

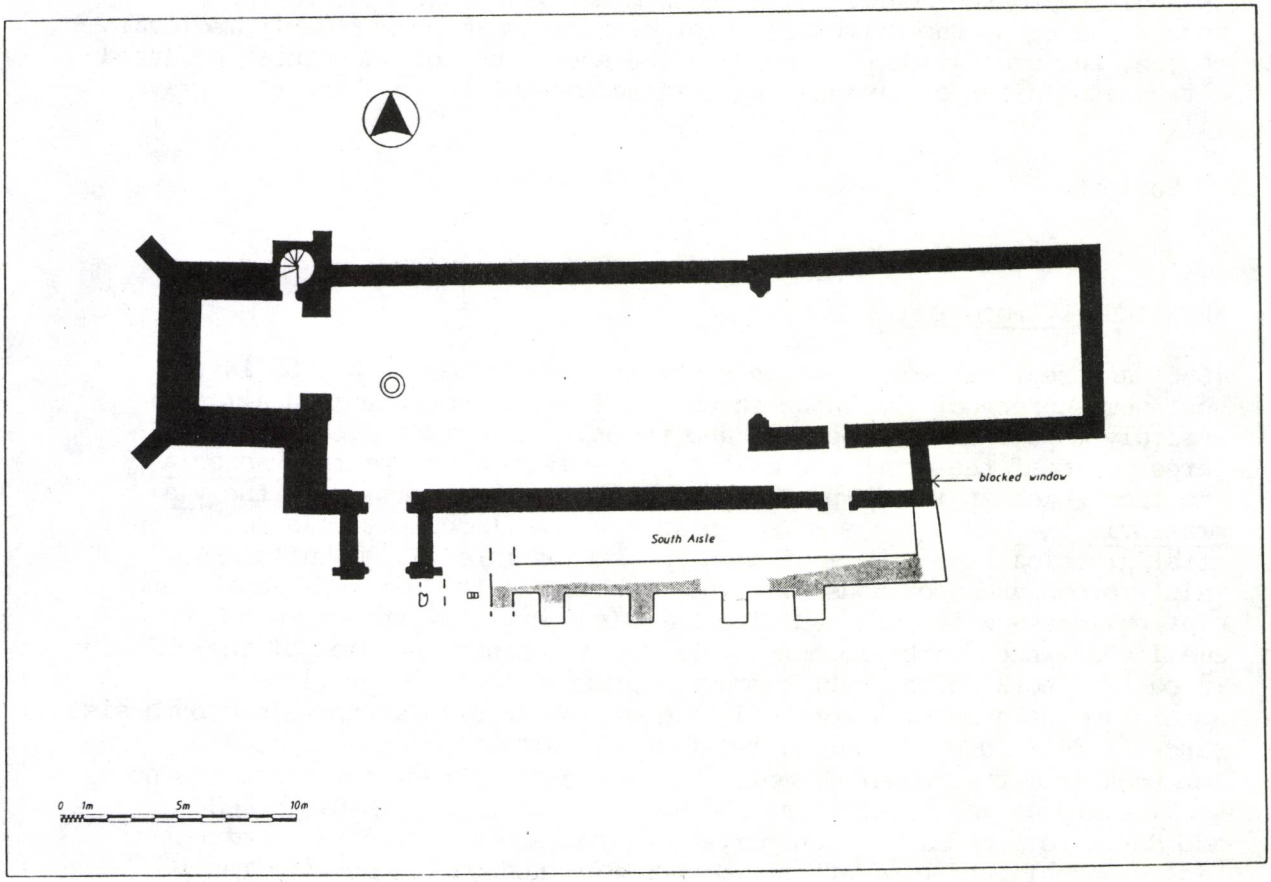


Figure 2.2 Plan of St. Andrew's, Wroxeter (after Cranage). Toned areas indicate the surviving areas of the mortar foundations of the south aisle. The later porch, where a few bricks remain from a paved floor, is to the west.

work involved it was necessary that archaeologists participate in the process, monitoring activities such as the stripping of wall plaster, and excavating in advance of the installation of a new drainage system. During the 5 months of work on site it has been possible to combine useful information from the examination of the standing building, particularly newly exposed wall surfaces, with the below-ground evidence recovered in excavation. The existing south wall, built in 1763, bisected a wider south aisle of the 13th century and reused much of the resulting demolition material in its construction. Within the surviving stub of the east medieval wall half of a blocked 13th century round-headed window was uncovered, and this proved to have a 14th century painting of a female saint in its reveal when the blocking was partly removed. Further remains of this extensive 14th century paint scheme, including a male saint with a cloak, were revealed in plaster-stripping of walls nearby.

The dimensions of this south aisle can be reconstructed from the excavation of its foundations along the southern drain line: 4 buttresses were built along its south side, and a porch, probably of the 16th century, was excavated at its west end. The many architectural fragments found in the dismantling of the upper courses of the 1763 wall will enable the theoretical reconstruction of the medieval aisle roof and nave arcade.

In addition to the contribution the project will have made to the understanding of the structural history of this important early medieval church, the excavation of a sump to the south west of the church produced a truncated ditch of probable Roman date below 1.5 m of Victorian grave fill.

C. Moffett.

WROXETER, Viroconium

1985 was the final season of an excavation which began in 1955 in the southwest corner of the baths insula. Work was concentrated almost entirely on the military period and the most important find was the three posts of the north end of the gate-tower of the porta praetoria and from which it is now possible to estimate the position of the via praetoria. The sequence of seven intervallum roads was related stratigraphically to the equivalent phases of intervallum buildings. mainly ovens and cook-houses. The problems of the earliest wattle and clay buildings were resolved with the discovery that they were quite small and linked with the open ovens built against the back of the rampart. Work on the turf rampart suggested that the previous assumption of a massive vertical timber front was an acceptable hypothesis, since it fits into the normal relationship with the interval towers, set back from the rampart front. It was established that there was no back revetment and a reconstructed section has been possible based on a 5 Roman foot module. Few portable finds are worthy of note except a fine bronze figurine of Attis, the youthful god of a near-eastern salvation cult in use as an amulet. Found in a military deposit, it must be one of the earliest finds of this deity in Britain.

Graham Webster.

WROXETER, Viroconium

The excavation of the baths basilica at Wroxeter was brought to a close this year. The site has now been back-filled in a way which will make it possible for the excavation to be resumed at some future date, and in the meantime, it will be laid out for display to the public. It is hoped to publish a major interim report within the course of the next twelve months.

P. A. Barker, University of Birmingham.

Staffordshire

ACTON TRUSSELL (SJ 937175)

Acton Trussell was one of the medieval manors belonging to Fulk de Pembrugge of Tong Castle. Fieldwalking over a period of five years by the Tong Archaeological Group in the area surrounding the church of St. James, Acton Trussell, has resulted in a number of Roman artefacts being recovered. These consist of three mortarium sherds, four bronze coins of the 3rd century AD (2 of Helena and 2 Barbarous radiates), one coin of the 2nd century, and tile fragments.

The amount of material found suggested Roman occupation in the vicinity of the church. In June 1985, an excavation was carried out to the east of the churchyard, following deep ploughing of the area. A trench cut parallel to the east wall of the church exposed building remains at a depth of 0.25 m. In the edge of the trench, a well preserved opus signinum floor abutted an outside wall whose inner face was curved in plan.

Under the top soil was a deposit of demolition or robbing material with pan tile fragments, slate fragments, large quantities of painted wall plaster and a few mosaic pieces. Complete excavation of an area 10 m x 5 m revealed the foundation of a building. One course of stonework above floor level was partly robbed, and three further courses of stonework formed a foundation. Below this was a layer of marl strengthened by the inclusion of large cobbles.

The outer side of the wall was semi-hexagonal in plan, butting up to an earlier cross wall while the inside of this wall was semi-circular. Inside the building was a well preserved opus signinum floor. A large number of post-holes postdated the stone building.

By this stage of the excavation it seemed probable that the main building was under the churchyard and this possibly explains earlier references mistakenly thought to be evidence of an earlier church. A pamphlet on the church by the Rev. W. A. Appleby suggested that "... the church was much bigger at some time. Interments in 1892-3 revealed distinct traces of foundations between the east end and the fence (the excavation's west boundary line). One wall seems to have run in a slanting direction south-east quite halfway to the fence, also down to the fence on the west end. There is some stonework at the north-east corner of the church which is serving as a buttress. Some of this is very rough and would seem to have been part of an old wall which extended in a northerly direction from this point ..."

Probing was carried out in the field along the southern boundary of the churchyard and it soon became apparent that there was at least sandstone, albeit loose, below the surface for some 15 metres along this boundary, and in line with the east end of the church building, and obstructions more

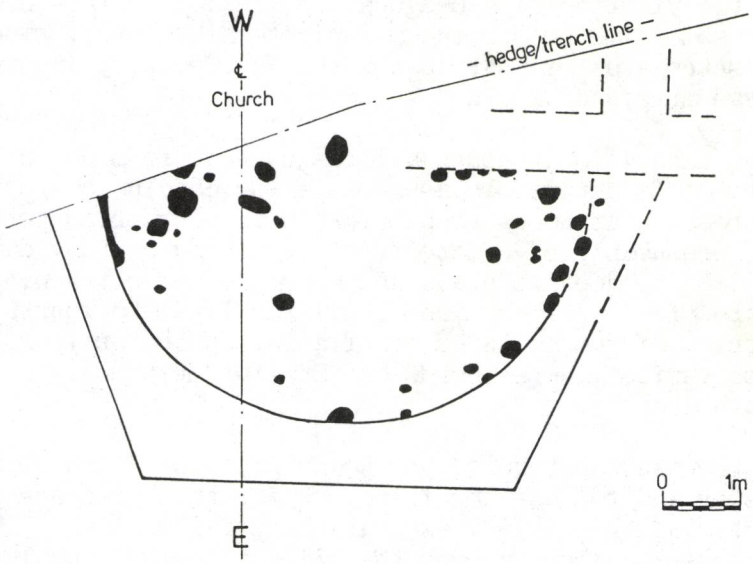


Figure 2.3 Acton Trussell: Plan.

substantial were encountered, confirming the report in the pamphlet.

Since the finds included large quantities of loose mosaic pieces and even larger quantities of plaster, a provisional identification would be of a 2nd/3rd century villa building decorated with painted wall plaster and having a mosaic floor.

Tony Habberly, Tong Archaeological Group.

ROCESTER (SK 111395)

Excavation of an area 30 m by 10 m to the east of Dr. G. Webster's 1961 Trench I in the New Cemetery, Church Lane was undertaken to evaluate the potential of the site, with a view to the total excavation of the available area over a three year period.

The later Roman clay rampart was exposed to the north of the site, its surface cut by numerous medieval and post-medieval features including gullies and a curving ditch. No Roman contexts were however excavated to the south, due to the unexpected complexity of the overlying medieval deposits.

The earliest structure examined dated to the twelfth or thirteenth century, and was a substantial timber building, with an associated cobble floor, the robbed beam-trenches testifying to the building's careful dismantling. Once the building had been removed the area was used for dumping and then levelled for possible cultivation. In the thirteenth or fourteenth century another building, of stone or half-timbered, stood on the site but this was subsequently much damaged by ploughing. Its nature, and span of use and disuse are therefore uncertain. The ploughing represents a second agricultural phase here and is probably associated with the gullies dug along the inner tail of the Roman rampart, to take a sectional retaining fence. These gullies mark the northern limit of the ploughsoil. Deep ploughing seems to have ended in the sixteenth century and the land was turned over to pasture. Though the fence was in all probability taken down at the same time, the rampart was later reused as a boundary with the planting of a hedge along its top. This hedge in turn was removed some time before the mid-nineteenth century since the 1851 Tithe Map shows the area of what is now the New Cemetery incorporated within a single large irregular field.

Roman finds from the excavation, though all residual, were made in large numbers but they are difficult to use as a basis for conclusions on the date of the Roman presence at Rocester other than in very broad terms. Military equipment, presumably of a late first or second century date, was represented by iron projectile heads and a bronze horse trapping. The pottery and coins are of all periods from the later first to fourth centuries, the majority of the coins being of a late third or fourth century date. Also residual were sherds of "Stafford-type ware", dateable to the tenth century.

The need to define the exact nature of the Roman presence, both military and civil, at Rocester and to test the framework for this presence put forward by Dr. Webster after the 1961 excavations still remains. The trenches dug at various locations around the village in 1964 and 1968 turned up evidence for metal-working, and in the forthcoming publication this is interpreted as part of a sizeable quasi-industrial complex

contemporary with and external to the late first and early second century fort. An opportunity will also be provided to examine the evolution of Rocester village itself in the light of what is potentially a long post-Roman and medieval sequence in the New Cemetery. Such an examination will be greatly aided by comparison with the results of the recent large scale BUFAU excavations in Stafford. The definition of the status of Rocester will help in our understanding of the hierarchy of settlements in Staffordshire.

Participation 1985

A. S. Esmonde Cleary (Project Director), M. A. Cooper (BUFAU Assistant Director), I. M. Ferris (BUFAU Project Assistant) with grateful thanks to Staffordshire County Council/CPA Roving Team, University of Birmingham students on their training dig, and the many local volunteers.

Sponsors

JCB Excavators Limited; East Staffordshire District Council; University of Birmingham. Thanks are also due to Staffordshire County Council, Rocester Parish Council and the Community Programme Agency, Stafford. A faculty to excavate was granted by Lichfield Diocesan Office.

A.S.Esmonde Cleary,University of Birmingham

STOKE-ON-TRENT, City General Hospital (SJ 85734495)

In the course of landscaping to the west of the new extension of the City General Hospital, Stoke-on-Trent, two skeletons and some stone foundations were uncovered. They were brought to the notice of the Museum by a member of the Museum Archaeological Society. A few days' moratorium on the works enabled the structure to be recorded. The substantial rough sandstone foundations of a rectangular building were revealed, with signs of an internal division at the east end. The two skeletons, in very fragmentary condition, lay in shallow graves beyond the east end of the structure.

The site lies in an area known as the "Spittles" close to the boundary of the parish of Stoke-on-Trent, and just outside the great 19th-century workhouse complex (now the City General Hospital). It is known that a medieval hospital, believed to have been dedicated to St. Loye, was located in the area and it seems likely that the foundations may relate to it. It would have lain between the two medieval settlements of Penkhull and Newcastle-under-Lyme, each about 1 mile distant.

The site, though disturbed by landscaping, is not to be built on, but will remain buried beneath a metre or more of soil in a car-parking area of the new development.

C. F. Hawke-Smith, City Museum and Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent.

STOKE-ON-TRENT, Hanley (SJ 88384810, SJ 88414830 and SJ 88364767)

Significant finds relating to the early pottery industry of Hanley have been made at three sites along the course of the Hanley Eastern Bypass. All three were in the northern part of the town on Town Road.

HEB 7. A stratified deposit of kiln wasters and kiln furniture of c. 1765-75 included creamwares and white salt-glazed stonewares.

HEB 8. Part of a brick and sandstone floor with associated drain and brick-lined culvert, constructed c. 1775 - 90, was uncovered on the site of the former Church Works and was almost certainly part of this pottery complex. Beneath this was an ash layer containing pottery waste of c. 1765 - 75 which itself sealed a thick clay deposit rich in pottery waste, kiln furniture and clay pipes of c. 1710 - 15. Finds include slipwares, blackwares, mottled wares, coarse lead-glazed earthenwares, brown salt-glazed stonewares and a surprisingly large quantity of fine white salt-glazed stonewares.

HEB 9. Pottery from a waste tip of c. 1750 was salvaged during large scale earth-moving operations. A vast quantity of finewares of this period together with a range of kiln furniture and saggars was retrieved.

David Barker, Stoke-on-Trent Museum and Art Gallery.

STOWE-BY-CHARTLEY, Wood Farm (SK 03772885)

Stoke-on-Trent Museum has maintained an interest in this area since the discovery in 1976 of a large deposit of pottery, leather, metalwork and animal bone during the deepening of the farm's pond. The area adjacent and to the east of the pond is bounded on two sides by a fairly substantial ditch and in 1978 a trial trench produced evidence, in the form of worked sandstone blocks and window glass, to indicate that a building had once stood on the site, as suggested by an estate map of 1661. An abundance of pottery, together with clay pipes and metalwork could be dated to c. 1670 - 1700.

In 1985 the opportunity to excavate further presented itself. The site was thought to be of particular importance in that it was within the area of the ceramic markets of Stoke-on-Trent and Ticknall; despite considerable evidence for the production of pottery in Stoke in the 17th century, there is as yet no firm evidence for its distribution and use within the immediate locality. Furthermore, excavations of unspectacular rural sites with good assemblages of ceramics and other material are rare and, in this case, there was the added incentive of providing a context for the 1976 finds.

Four weeks of excavation by staff and volunteers from Stoke-on-Trent Museum did not provide a clear idea of the nature of the site and yet more questions were raised. However, there were further indications of a building on the site in the form of worked sandstone, an abundance of window glass (some of it stained), quantities of iron nails, a large but irregular area of cobbled floor and a small hearth. The finds, extremely prolific, confirm a date of c. 1670 - 1700 for this latest phase of activity on the site, although an indication of earlier activity was gained from 16th-century type pottery retrieved from mole tunnels. The finds also suggest that the site was occupied by a group of middling social status who were purchasing slip-decorated and other coarser earthenwares from Stoke, but who possessed little delftware and no porcelain whatsoever. There is, however, evidence for small scale industrial activity on the site in the form of large areas of charcoal and iron slag, the latter seemingly used in places alongside the pebbles in the cobbled floor which covered a large part of the site.

Further work is planned for 1986.

David Barker, Stoke-on-Trent Museum and Art Gallery.

WALL (SK 098066)

Excavation continues to the north of the "mansio" where the remains of the large feature mentioned in the 1984 summary (West Midlands Archaeology 27, 1984, 71) have now been almost removed. Examination revealed more than one phase, and although post-Roman artefacts were found in the upper level, only Roman material was recovered from the lower one, suggesting that this was of an earlier date.

The features referred to as hearths proved to be kilns similar in plan to those from Mancetter (ibid, No. 26, 1983, 109). Remnants of clay walls remained with the position of the two pedestals clearly seen as unburnt areas. The base around the pedestals was slightly dished as would result from raking-out. No associated pottery was recovered.

The most important discoveries were two carved stones from earlier excavations which had been mislaid for many years. They were the ones referred to in the report by Dr. Anne Ross; the unseen stone described as probably having a celtic cross was found to bear a latin one, (Transactions of South Staffordshire Archaeological and Historical Society, 11th Wall Report, Vol. XXI, 1979/80, Nos. 1 and 2).

Volunteers from South Staffordshire Archaeological and Historical Society, Birmingham University Archaeological Society and the Douglas Heritage Society have assisted with the excavation.

Frank and Nancy Ball, Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission and South Staffordshire Archaeological and Historical Society.

WROTTESLEY, Deserted Medieval Village (SJ 8501)

The initial interest in the Wrottesley area by the Group followed the reading of Dr. Plot's Natural History of Staffordshire and recent research by Clive Rasdall, a member of the Tong Archaeological Group, into the old Wrottesley Park and Boningale areas (Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological Society LIX, 1973/74).

Investigations into the position of the deserted medieval village of Wrottesley were given impetus by the acquisition of a copy of the c. 1634 Estate Map of Wrottesley, and by the recent publication of the Victoria County History of Staffordshire, Volume XX, which contained a reference to the position of the medieval Wrottesley Hall differing from the position of the Hall as determined by the Group, using the c. 1634 map and the c. 1902 Ordnance Survey map. After a long period of field and boundary line walking, it was possible to confirm the Group's initial findings and to locate the position of the medieval village of Wrottesley.

The name Wrottesley, which probably means Wrot's glade or wood, is first recorded in the will of Wulgeat of Donington, dated c. 1000. The Domesday Survey records Wrottesley as being in the Seisdon Hundred "...Clodoen holds it for him, Hunta held it, a freeman, two hides, land for two ploughs, in Lordship, one plough, one smallholder, woodland half a league by two furlongs. Value of 4 shillings."

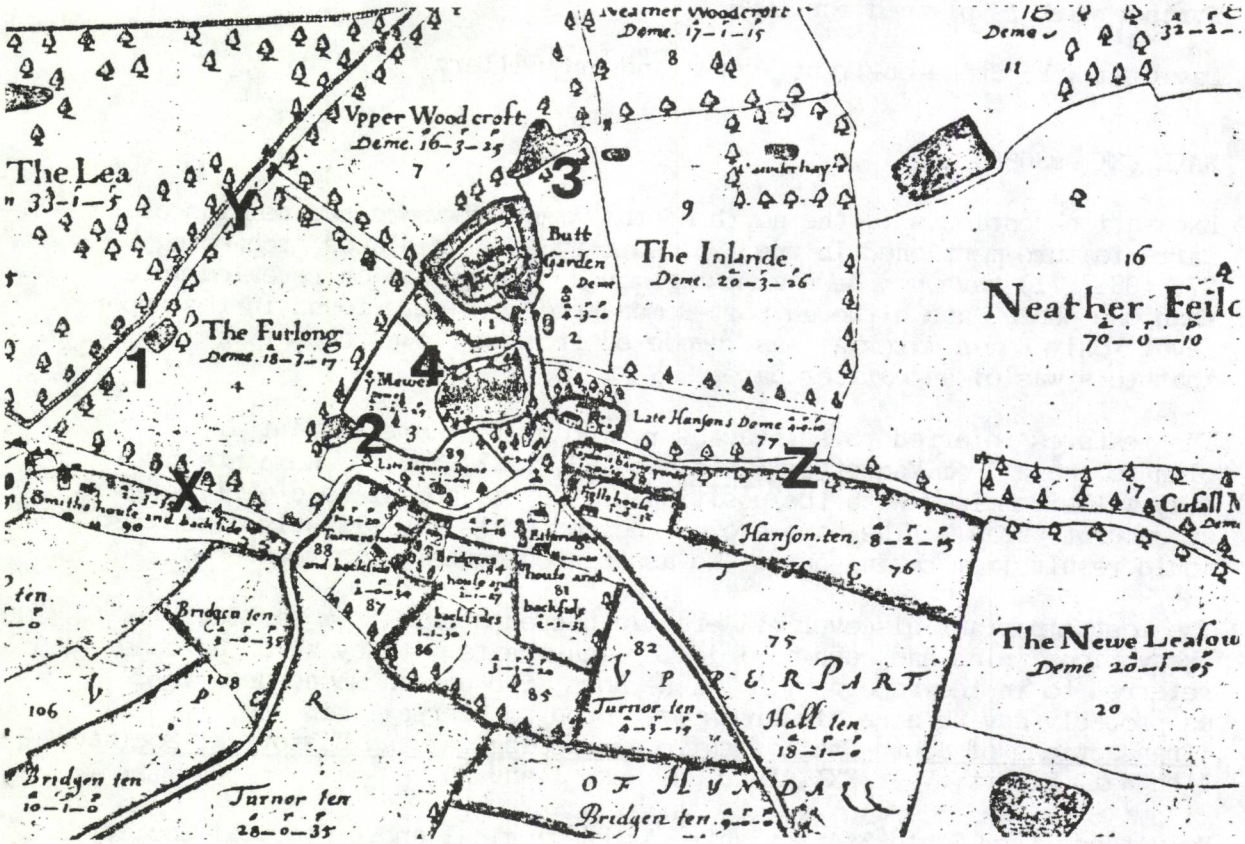


Figure 2.4 Wrottesley: Estate Map, c.1634.

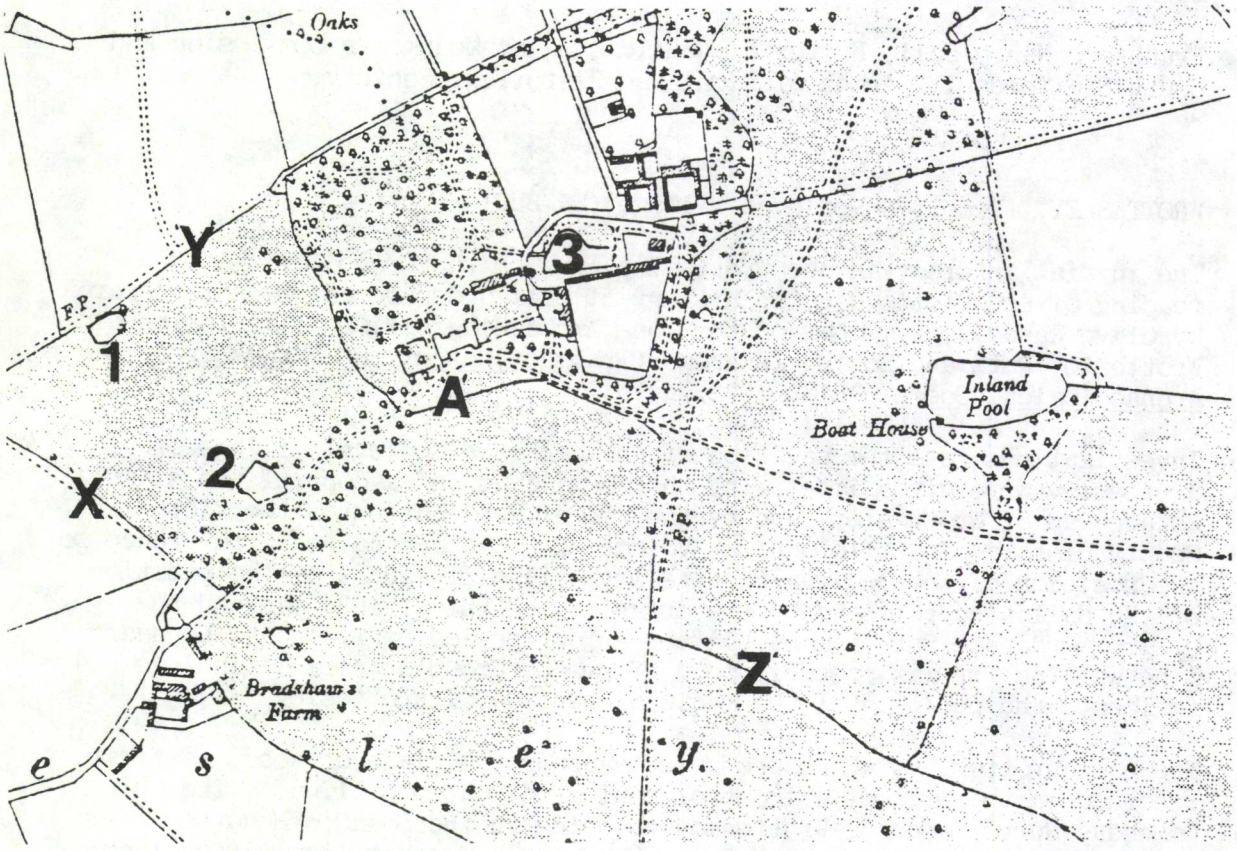


Figure 2.5 Wrottesley: Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map, c.1902.

The once moated area of the medieval manor house, although affected by 19th century landscaping, can be determined by comparison of the c. 1634 Estate Map (figure 2.4) with the c. 1902 Ordnance Survey map (figure 2.5).

The relationship between the three pools (1-3), which still exist, enables the area of the moated manor house to be established, with the boundary line ("A" on the c. 1902 map) being approximately on the centre line of the southern side of the moat.

The manor house or hall on the c. 1634 map is shown as a Tudor-style building and whilst the original medieval manor house could have been refurbished with a Tudor facade, research suggests that the site was deserted in the 14th century, with a subsequent return by the Wrottesley family in the 16th century who then built a house in the Tudor style as shown on the c. 1634 Map.

It is therefore possible to locate the c. 1696 manor house which replaced the Tudor-style hall, and the c. 1900 hall (which was built after the former had been destroyed by fire in c. 1897), in relation to the original moated mound area, both of which were built on the northern area, and on the edge, of the medieval mound.

The boundaries of the deserted village of Wrottesley can be further determined by aligning the still visible road pattern, (X and Y), along with the field boundary Z, shown on both maps, and this places the village between the present Wrottesley Hall and Bradshaws Farm.

Whilst most of the site of the former village was affected by the construction of the large water storage pool, (which also encompassed pool 4 shown on Figure 2.4) remains of the southern part of the medieval village may still survive under the cultivated fields in the area to the east of Bradshaws Farm.

Alan Wharton and Tony Habberley, Tong Archaeological Group.

Warwickshire

ALCESTER, International supermarket site (SP 088573)

Excavations in advance of the construction of a large supermarket and car park began in November and will continue until the end of February. So far (December 1985) three trial trenches have been excavated at the east end of the site. In Trench A, the destruction rubble from a nearby Roman stone building overlay a deep clay deposit. Trench B cut across a bank taken to be part of the Roman defensive circuit previously recognised elsewhere in the town. At this point there was no trace of a stone wall. Much rubbish had been thrown onto the waste land beyond the bank. Trench C located destruction rubble and a mortar floor. Boreholes at the western end of the site failed to discover any further structures but mapped the extent of the clay deposit seen in Trench A. Work is now starting on the excavation of a stone building first recognised by Paul Booth in 1979 (see WMANS 1980). The excavation is funded by HBMC.

Stephen Cracknell, Warwickshire Museum.

ASTON CANTLOW, Settlement Site (SP 123627)

Earthwork features beside a patch of waste land at the junction of several routeways in Shelfield, Aston Cantlow, seem to represent the site of a former settlement. A building is shown on Greenwood's map of Warwickshire for 1822 and a road-side smithy on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 6 inch map for 1885. Pieces of building stone and flagstones have been noted. There may since have been some quarrying into the site in order to build up the road leading to Little Alne. The site has been surveyed by members of a University of Warwick Extramural class.

D. Hooke.

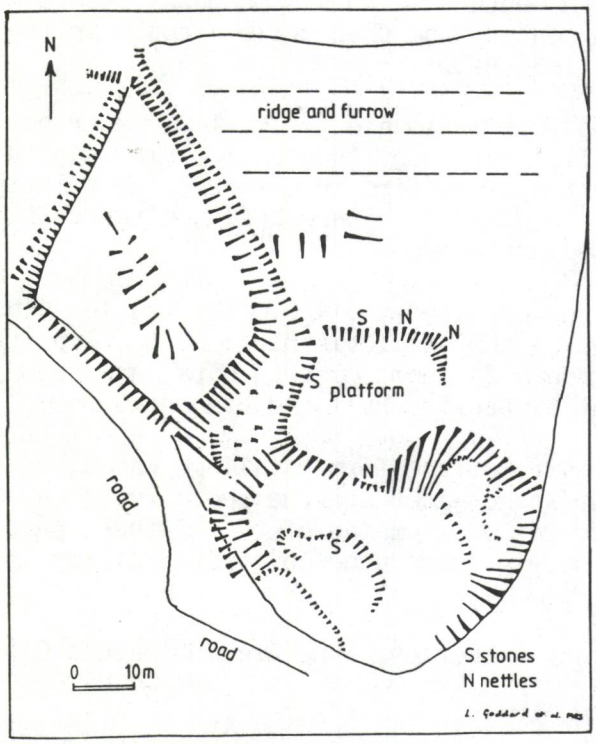


Figure 2.6 Settlement site, Shelfield; Aston Cantlow.

BIDFORD ON AVON, Summer Lane (SP 10705268)

A fragment of a coin of Coenwulf, King of Mercia (796 - 821) was recovered from a field adjoining the old disused railway line in August, 1985. It was found by Mr. R. Laight of Studley, using a metal detector, and was brought to the Warwickshire Museum for identification. With the consent of the farmer on whose land it was found it was presented to the Museum for the numismatic collection. The coin is so broken away around the inscription that the name of the moneyer has disappeared and only NET of MONETA remains. However, the type is clearly of the middle coinage (c. 805-10) having on obverse a diademed bust of the king right, the letters remaining being VVL; on the reverse is a cross pommee with wedge in each angle. Such coins were almost certainly struck in Kent, mostly at Canterbury (North 1963, 60, No. 344). It is worth recording that this is the second Coenwulf penny found at Bidford. The other, also found by metal detector, was discovered during excavations on the course of the new by-pass road in 1978 (SP 09915197). See British Numismatic Journal 52 (1982) pp. 29-33.

North, J. J. English Hammered Coinage I, 1963.

W. A. Seaby, Numismatic Section, Warwickshire Museum.

BILLESLEY, Billesley Trussell (SP 148568)

A quantity of Romano-British sherds, including both coarse and samian ware, was gathered by members of a University of Warwick Extramural class from ploughsoil adjacent to the deserted medieval village of Billesley Trussell. This represents yet one more medieval village site in mid-Warwickshire which can be shown to have been occupied in Romano-British times (1).

(1) D. Hooke, 'Village development in the West Midlands', pp. 125-54, in D. Hooke (ed.), Medieval Villages, a Review of Current Work, Oxford University Committee for Archaeology Monograph No. 5, Oxford 1985.

D. Hooke

FULBROOK, Fulbrook Castle (SP 25026033; PRN WA 835)

Cropmarks of a large rectangular building were examined on Castle Hill. The site was first photographed by Arnold Baker and showed as a very clear parch-mark in which individual rooms and corridors placed around a central

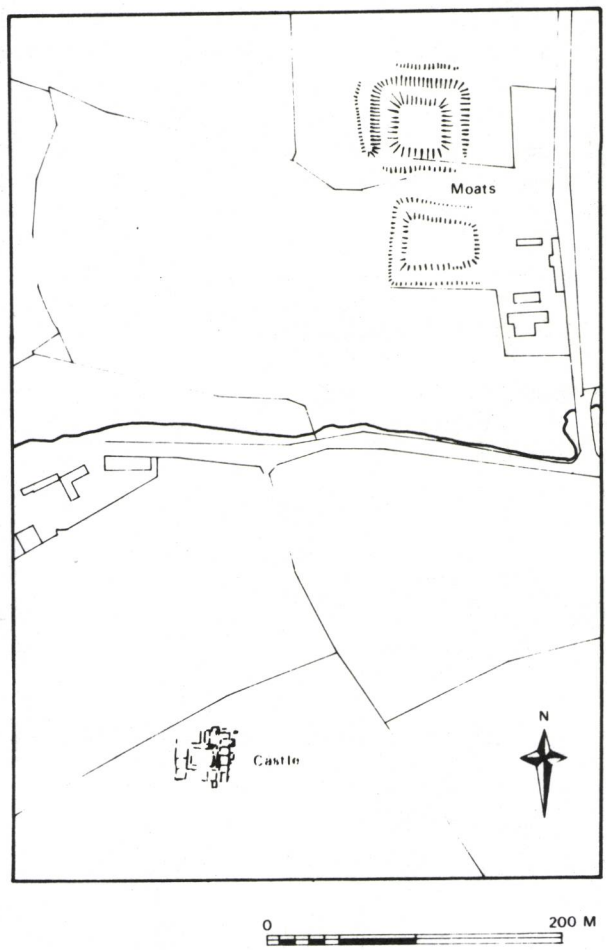


Figure 2.7 Fulbrook Castle and Moats.

courtyard could be traced (the site has subsequently been photographed from the air by Jim Pickering, note 1). The potential significance of the site was indicated by Graham Webster, who suggested that it was a courtyard villa (Webster 1974, 55). If so the Fulbrook structure is unique in Warwickshire as villas are very rare in the county and other courtyard villas are not known.

However, the Victoria County History records that Castle Hill is the site of a castle built by John of Bedford in the early fifteenth century (VCH, 1945). Leland recorded that the castle was built of stone and brick and that it was pulled down in the reign of Henry VIII (Leland 1535-43, 47-8). It is also known that an excavation was mounted on the castle in about 1790, when a vault, or cellar, perhaps once part of the footings of a tower, was discovered (Ward 1830, 134). However, the location of the excavation was not certain and the site of John of Bedford's castle was in doubt; Chatwin suggested that it lay within one of the Fulbrook moats in the valley to the north of Castle Hill (Chatwin 1947-8, 30).

As a result it was decided to examine the site on the ground. The field was visited in January, 1985, when it was under a young crop. No obvious earthworks survived on the site, but the whole area of the cropmark was covered with a very dense scatter of medieval tile and brick mixed with small quantities of stone. There seems little doubt that the site is medieval and its position on a hill-top with commanding views in all directions add support to the contention that this is the site of John of Bedford's Castle.

The building does not appear to have been defended by any form of earthwork and appears to represent a roughly square building (about 35 x 35 metres) consisting of rooms set around as a courtyard. One wonders to what extent the castle was actually intended to be defensive; its plan is very similar to phase one of the house at Compton Wynyates (VCH 1949, 62) a house constructed in about 1520 and partly built out of material removed from the Fulbrook Castle (Leland 1535-43, 47-8).

Chatwin, P. B., 1947, 'Castles in Warwickshire', TBAS, 67, 1-54.

Leland, J., 1535-43, The Itinerary of John Leland (edited by L. Toulmin Smith, 1908).

Ward, T., 1830, Collections for the Continuation of the History and Antiquities of Warwickshire by Sir William Dugdale, Volume I (manuscript in Warwickshire County Records Office).

Victoria County History, 1945, The Victoria History of the County of Warwickshire, Volume III.

Victoria County History, 1949, The Victoria History of the County of Warwickshire, Volume V.

Webster, G., 1974, 'The West Midlands in the Roman Period: A Brief Survey', TBAS, 86, 49-58.

Note 1: Air Photographs of the site in Warwick SMR Collection: SP 2560 B,D,H,G,N,O,P,Q,R.

R. Hingley, Archaeology Section, Warwick Museum.

GREAT ALNE, Roadside Cottage (SP 111622)

Settlement patterns on the southern fringes of Arden are being studied by a University of Warwick extramural class as part of an extended survey of the valleys of the rivers Alne and Arrow. A cottage standing beside Burford Lane in Great Alne has been surveyed, prior to modernisation, as being typical of the type of labourer's cottage often built in a roadside position in this area following the enclosure of a narrow strip of roadside waste. Some timber-framing survives and the original cottage seems to have been little bigger than the present main room plus an upper room within the roof space.

D. Hooke.

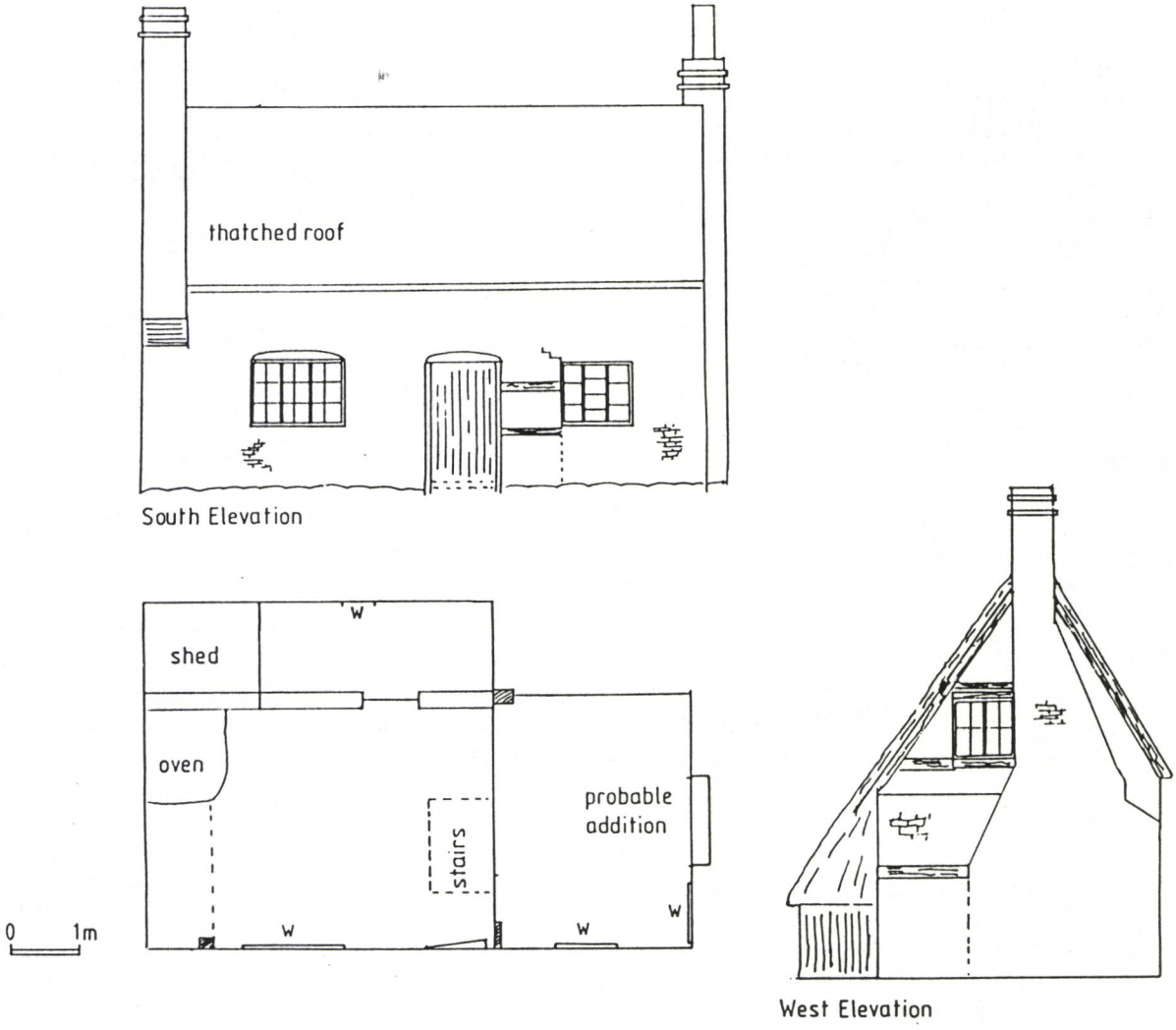


Figure 2.8 Cottage, Burford Lane, Great Alne.

KENILWORTH, (SP 287725)

Members of the Society have recorded further timber-framed buildings in Kenilworth through measured drawings, photographs and written reports. These included 19 New Street (early 17th century), 10 and 12 Bridge Street

(early 18th century), a barn at Long Meadow Farm, Burton Green (early/mid 18th century), Dale House, Dalehouse Lane (16th century?) and the remains of an early 18th century barn between 13 and 15 High Street.

S. G. Wallsgrove, Kenilworth History and Archaeology Society.

KENILWORTH, Kenilworth Castle (SP 278723)

The final season of excavation prior to the conversion of Leicester's Barn was conducted in 1984. This and earlier excavations revealed a long history of stabling and smithying activities on this site. The earliest phase of activity was represented by layers of dumped sand, clay and rubble running up against the curtain wall. This make-up formed the foundation material for the roughly worked sandstone footings of a rectilinear building which abutted the eastern curtain wall. This building was 20 metres long (north - south) and 4.5 metres in width. The drystone footings were not substantial enough for the walls to have been carried up in stone, and they may therefore have been constructed of wood. Within this building deposits of ash containing a high proportion of iron slag indicated its likely function as a smithy. The associated pottery dates this building to the 14th/15th century.

In the 16th/17th century the curtain wall was built along narrower lines and the present barn was built of uniform finely faced sandstone ashlar. Contemporary with this phase of construction were much truncated areas of sandstone paved floor. Within the floor, two parallel stone lined drains ran the length of the building. This rebuilding is presumably part of the large-scale building programme implemented by Robert Dudley, the Earl of Leicester.

During the late 18th/19th century a large sunken feature (4 m x 7 m) was cut through the deposits at the southern end of the barn. Within this feature three square brick furnaces (average area of base 1.15 m x 1.05 m) were constructed, used and abandoned. North of this a row of regularly spaced post-holes parallel to and 2 metres away from the curtain wall, and a similar row along the western wall, suggest temporary wooden structures, such as animal stalls. Both the brick furnaces and the suggested animal stalls are in keeping with a traditional stable layout with feeding troughs against the walls, and a forge in a separate part of the building.

In the final phase of the building's use these deposits were sealed by large-scale dumping of rubble and sand as make-up for the late 19th/20th century brick floor.

T. J. Crump, Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission.

MIDDLETON, Middleton Hall (SP 192981; PRN WA 117)

The north-eastern building within the moated enclosure at Middleton Hall is a timber-framed structure of probable late 15th century date. A pit 0.9 m square was dug into the floor of this building in December, 1985 to take the base of an internal support strut. This revealed a possible ground or floor surface, consisting of a loam layer c. 0.10 m thick overlying natural sand and gravel and itself overlain by 0.25 - 0.30 m of

18th-or 19th-century dumping. The loam layer produced no finds, and its relationship to the construction of the building is not known.

M. A. Hodder, Middleton Hall Trust.

MORETON MORRELL, (SP 30535547; PRN WA 4834)

In June, 1985, members of Warwick Museum built a reconstruction of a Roman kiln at Moreton Hall, Moreton Morrell. During the excavation of a flue for the kiln a possible archaeological feature was located. This feature was examined by means of a 2 x 1 metre trench just to the east of the kiln.

Six layers were present in the trench. The top four layers related to Second World War buildings with brick foundations, which were built within the grounds of Moreton Hall. Layers 5 and 6 were sealed by the World War 2 buildings; Layer 6 appeared to be natural. Layer 5, a dark grey-brown loam layer contained a mixture of Roman and Iron Age sherds. Of the nine Roman sherds, 5 were in grey wares and 3 were oxidised. Three sherds could be Iron Age or Roman and eight Iron Age sherds are in shell tempered fabrics. One of the Iron Age sherds was from a simple flat-topped vessel.

No trace of an archaeological feature was found. From the excavated section it seems probable that the soil containing archaeological material had slipped into a natural hollow. The hollow was probably caused by a minor fault in the underlying white lias. However, 20 sherds were found in the small trench and the Iron Age sherds are fairly large and unabraded. It seems probable that an Iron Age and Roman settlement exists in close proximity to the excavated area.

R. Hingley, Archaeology Section, Warwick Museum.

MORTON BAGOT, Chesters Green (SP 11026590)

A Norman coin in perfect condition was discovered in a field by Mr. Frank White of Redditch, using a metal detector, and was brought to the Warwickshire Museum in October, 1985 for classification. It is a penny of Henry I of BMC type I and dates from 1100-3. On the obverse it reads: +HNRI REXN, with a crowned facing bust and annulets by neck. The moneyer is AELFPINE ON LVN (Aelfwine of London), and the design consists of a cross fleury with an annulet in centre and three pellets on a pile in each angle (J. J. North, English Hammered Coinage I (1963) p. 144, No. 857).

W. A. Seaby, Numismatic Section, Warwickshire Museum.

PRINCETHORPE, Roman Settlement (SP 39857030 PRN WA 3106)

An extensive Roman site, possibly a small town, at Princethorpe is being examined. The site is situated on the Fosse Way Roman road about half way between the small towns of Chesterton-on-Fosse and High Cross (about 14 km from Chesterton and 19 km from High Cross). Finds made on the site in the nineteenth century include a range of Roman and Anglo-Saxon artefacts and further finds have been made since. A section of the Fosse Way in

1959-60 produced evidence for Romano-British settlement (PRN WA 3105; Stanley and Stanley 1959, Stanley and Stanley 1960). In addition, crop marks photographed by Jim Pickering indicate a possible sub-rectangular enclosure to the west of the Roman road (PRN WA 4889, Note 1, Figure 2.9).

Field work on two fields west of the Fosse Way produced evidence for Roman settlement along at least 450 metres of the road. The southern field contains the crop mark enclosure and the enclosure (PRN WA 4889, 4887) is on the top of a ridge with slopes downhill in all directions. The field is subject to regular ploughing and quantities of Roman pottery and small quantities of building material (tile and roofing slate) were observed. The northern field, also under cultivation, produced a fairly dense scatter of pottery (PRN WA 4888) with some tile from an area of hill slope below the crown of the hill.

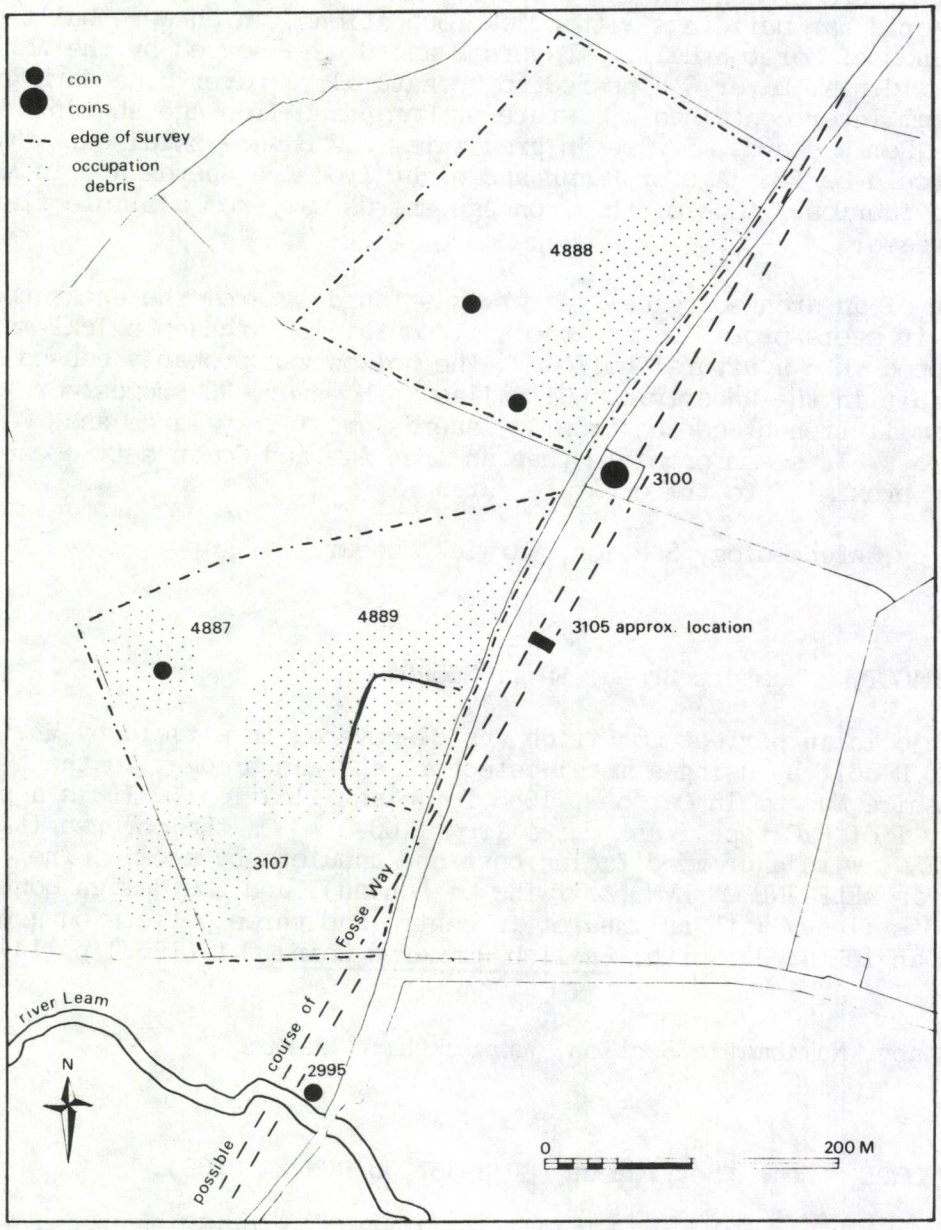


Figure 2.9 Princethorpe Roman Settlement.

Fields to the east of the road have not yet been examined. If these fields also contain Roman settlement evidence it is probable that the site represents a small town. The ditched enclosure may represent a defensive enclosure similar to the enclosures at other Roman small towns in Warwickshire (e.g. Alcester, Tiddington, Chesterton, Tripontium, Mancetter). It is hoped to return to the site in 1986 to examine the fields to the east of the Fosse Way.

Stanley, M. and Stanley B., 'Princethorpe', WMANS 1959, 2,4.

Stanley, M. and Stanley B., 'Princethorpe', WMANS 1960, 3,4.

Note 1: Air Photographs of the site in Warwick SMR Collection: SP 3970 A, B.

R. Hingley, Archaeology Section, Warwick Museum.

STRATFORD-ON-AVON, The Minories, off Meer Street (SP 200551)

A small excavation funded by Warwickshire Museum, investigated parts of two medieval burgage plots and the boundary between them in advance of the development of a shopping mall. The boundary appears to have originally been defined by a ?bank, which was followed in turn by a post and rail fence, a stone wall and, eventually, by a brick structure. A small hearth was discovered within the remains of the early bank. Either side of the boundary were the garden plots, one belonging to a house on Meer Street, the other belonging to a house on Henley Street. There was little evidence for activity on the Henley Street plot, except possibly for gardening, but the Meer Street plot had been disturbed by a number of pits and a possible well dating to the 15th or 16th century. The earliest pottery may date to the 13th century but it is not clear at this stage when the burgage plots were first laid out.

Stephen Cracknell, Warwickshire Museum.

WOOTTON WAWEN, Mays Hill Fishpond and Related Features (SP 140654)

A fishpond which may have been the "Newenton Ponde" recorded in a perambulation of 1608 (1) has been surveyed at Mays Hill. This represents further work by a University of Warwick Extramural class (tutor D. Hooke) carrying out field survey work in the valleys of the rivers Arrow and Alne. The pool lay beside the old course of the May's Hill Road near Hunger Hill Bridge and was probably subject to periodic flooding. It had been drained by 1736 (2), and the feeder streams were diverted around the pool field by means of a substantial dam which attains a maximum height of c. 1.8 m above the ground level on the eastern side. A leat across the field on the eastern side of the dam may represent an earlier attempt to remove excess water. There is an additional ditch to the west which taps the main feeder stream at a higher point and while these features may represent attempts to increase run-off in order to prevent flooding it is possible that a greater head of water was required to operate a mill in the vicinity. No documentary evidence casting light upon these features has yet been found. A fishpond has now been reconstructed on the site.

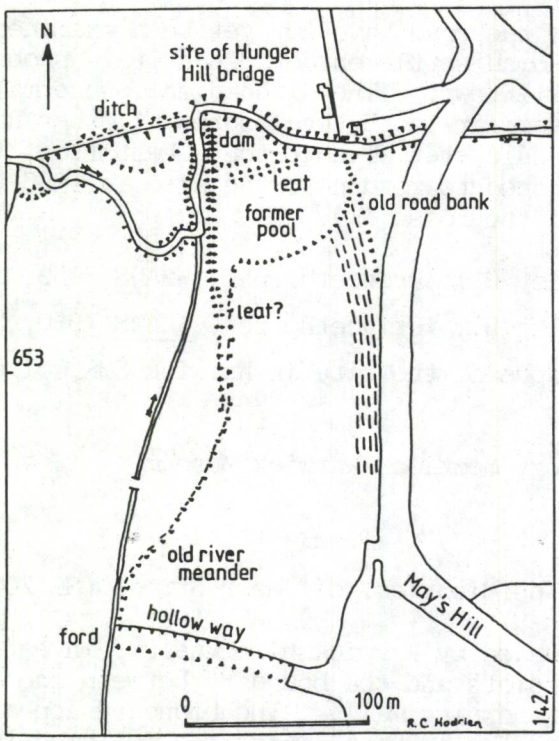


Figure 2.10 Mays Hill, Wootton Wawen: Dam and Water Features.

(1) A perambulation of 1608 by Thomas Spencer, in W. Cooper, Henley in Arden, Birmingham, 1946.

(2) Wootton Wawen estate map, 1736, WRO.

D. Hooke.

West Midlands

BIRMINGHAM, Hodge Hill Common (SP 133890)

In 1884 a local antiquarian, Christopher Chattock, described several "British, Roman and Saxon tumuli" on Hodge Hill common, an area of public open space near Castle Bromwich.

Earthworks on recent aerial photographs of the common have been investigated and can be described as follows:

Four earthworks are discernable on the ground, labelled (A) to (D) on the plan. (A) is 101 m long and 15 m wide at its widest point. It consists of an earthen bank, approximately 3 m wide and 0.30-0.40 m high, surrounded by a ditch which is clearly defined by a change in vegetation. (B) is a rectangular mound, about 0.30 m high, 13.5 m long and 9 m wide, which is cut by Coleshill Road. The top of the mound is badly disturbed. It is also surrounded by a ditch defined by vegetation change, and another ditch appears to run northwards from the east side of it. (C) is an area of ridge and furrow, which runs east to west across the common, and appears to go underneath (A). (D) is a roughly circular mound, too indistinct to be measured with any accuracy.

Chattock described and mapped four "tumuli", three of which correspond to (A), (B) and (D). The other one could not be traced on the ground but according to Chattock it lay to the north of (A). He did not mention any ridge and furrow. The latter is significant, because if it runs underneath (A), (B) and (D) as is likely, they obviously cannot be barrows. Alternative suggestions are that (A) could be a very large pillow mound, and (B) could be a house platform. The documentary evidence for the common is being researched at present, and it is hoped to produce a more detailed report in the future.

D. Harris.

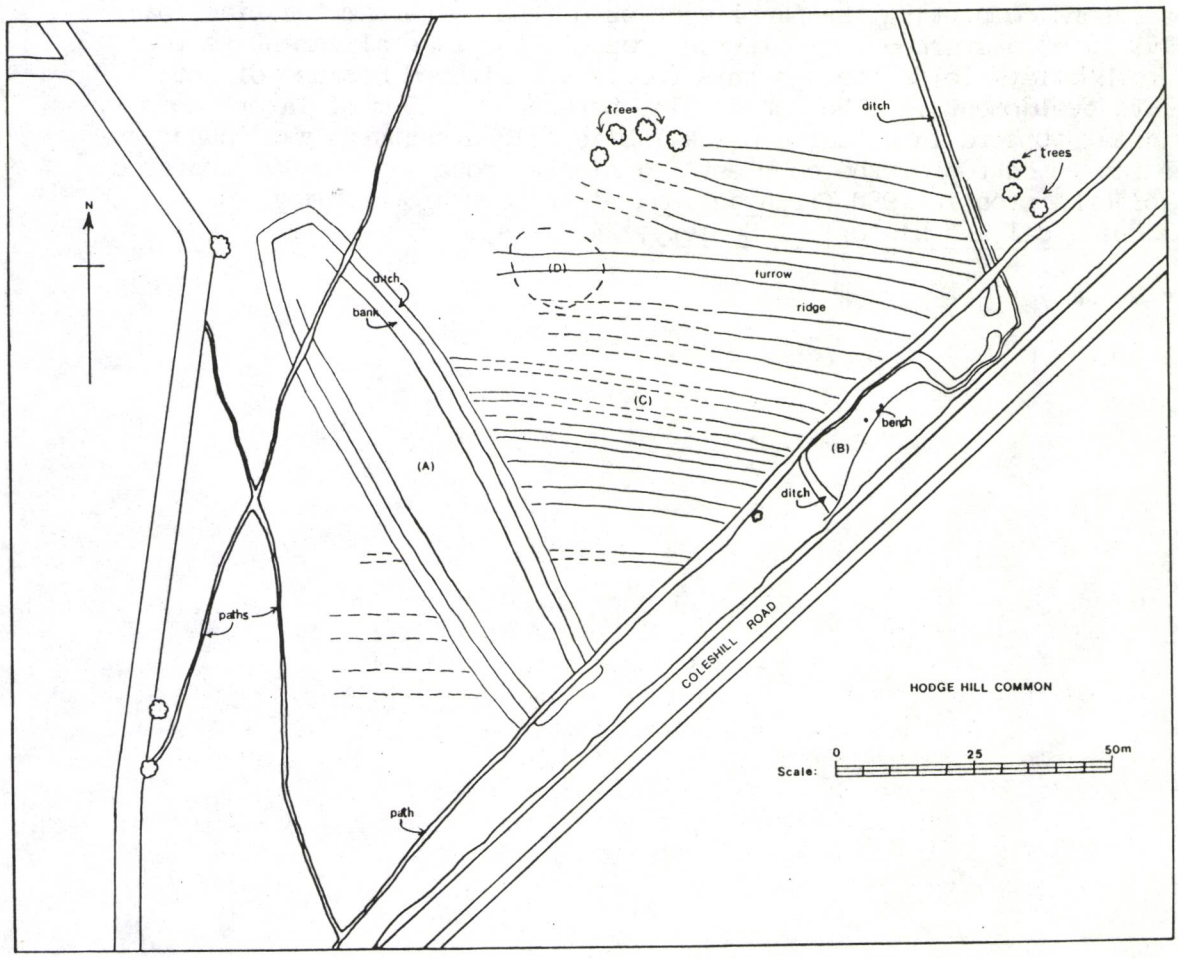


Figure 2.11 Hodge Hill Common, Birmingham.

NORTHFIELD, Northfield Mill (SP 023787)

An MSC scheme, sponsored by the Birmingham Planning Department and initiated by the Field Group, began in the summer of 1985. It involved the removal of demolition rubble and subsequent accumulations from the site of Northfield Mill, Mill Lane, Birmingham. A concrete floor, which post-dated the demolition (1958), was removed to reveal the original mill floor and wall foundations. Within these were located the water wheel pit and "pit wheel" pit. The rear wall of the mill survived to a height of 2.5 to 3 metres, where it revetted the dam ('head') of the mill pool. At the upper mill pool level other structures were uncovered, including the funnelled inflow from the pool to the top of the water wheel.

The Field Group conducted a survey of the surviving structures, and detailed plans and a more comprehensive report will be available in next year's West Midlands Archaeology.

George Demidowicz, Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society Field Group.

WOLVERHAMPTON, (SO 917986)

Contractors completing the final section of the Wolverhampton ring road (July, 1985) disturbed a cobblestone road on the same alignment as the modern Horsley Fields (though this too is now altered because of the recent development). The cobbles lay beneath c. 1.5 m of later deposit. A single potsherd in a coarse black fabric (?13th century) was found immediately on top of the cobbles. A similar road was partly excavated in Wolverhampton in 1980 (Transactions of the South Staffordshire Archaeological and Historical Society, 24, 1984).

John Malam.

3 Forum

The Archaeology of the River Gravels
Papers from a West Midlands Professional Archaeological Review Body Seminar, held January 16th 1986.
Ed. J. Wills.

The second WMPARB Seminar, organised and chaired by Richard Hingley, considered approaches to the archaeology of the river gravels in the West Midlands and neighbouring counties.

The six speakers reviewed recent major projects (J. Wills, Beckford; G. Crawford, Wasperton), approaches to archaeology in two river valleys (S.Losco-Bradley, Trent; D. Miles, Upper Thames), the potential of aerial photography in the analysis of landscapes (R. Whimster), and the current policy of the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission towards river gravels sites (M. Parker Pearson).

The majority of the speakers have submitted short statements based on their seminar papers. The decision to publish these in West Midlands Archaeology was prompted by the hope that they will be of interest to a much wider audience than was present at the seminar, including those who are involved in the survey or excavation of such sites, and those who have the responsibility for devising strategies for the conservation of the archaeological landscape of the midlands river valleys; a landscape under tremendous pressure from agriculture and from mineral extraction.

Research strategies for the archaeology of the rural landscape : a review following excavations at Beckford 1975-79.

J.Wills

Following the completion of excavations at Beckford, one of the major river valley gravels projects of the 1970s, the writer was asked to comment specifically on the theme of the importance of site selection for excavation on the basis of the quality of surviving deposits, and of the choice of excavation techniques which would best realise the archaeological potential of such well-preserved sites.

The request for this contribution seems to have arisen out of a dissatisfaction with sentiments often expressed in this region towards the prospects of further excavation of sites along the river gravel terraces. Surprisingly, in view of the tiny number of such sites now excavated in the Midlands, there is a certain weariness of approach and a feeling that Beckford and Wasperton have between them fully explored the pattern of prehistoric and very early historic periods of landuse in the river valleys; that further excavation would simply reveal "more of the same".

It is however argued here that the existing information base for the study of most aspects of the human communities of these periods is still extremely poor, and that the low regard in which gravels sites are often held arises instead from the archaeological approach to them:

- excavation techniques which persist in treating gravels sites as exempt from the principles of stratigraphy.

- the selection of sites for excavation in the absence of prior evaluation, or survey.

- research designs which are site, or at best river gravels, specific.

This paper therefore examines two main themes:

1. The past : the Beckford project.
2. Future research directions.

1. Excavations at Beckford.

The later prehistoric and Romano-British site at Beckford in south Worcestershire was identified from aerial photographs in the early 1960s (Webster and Hobley 1964) which showed cropmarks produced by boundary ditches, pit alignments trackways and enclosures containing clusters of pits, postholes and other features, along a gravel terrace in the valley of the Carrant Brook, a tributary of the River Avon. The Carrant Valley lies between Bredon Hill, an outlier of the Cotswold Hills to the north, and the main range of the Cotswolds to the south. At the time of the Webster and Hobley survey quarrying had already begun to encroach on this group of sites and was expected to destroy them completely within the next 10-15 years. As a result the area of cropmarks to the northeast of Beckford village was chosen for excavation by the Avon and Severn Valleys Research Committee on the basis of its extent and apparent complexity. Excavation was completed in 1979, a total of 18 acres having been recorded. Post excavation analysis of the data recorded between 1975 and 1979 is nearing completion and a programme to bring W. J. Britnell's work between 1972 and 1974 to publication has just begun.

Although not recognised when it was initially chosen for excavation, since no prior evaluation was undertaken, the cropmark site included some areas of extremely well preserved stratigraphy and structures. The post-glacial landscape of the gravel terrace was undulating, with shallow north to south valleys draining into the Carrant Brook. Subsequently, many thousands of years of agriculture have smoothed out this landscape, eroding the slight ridges and infilling the hollows. Deposition of hill wash and of alluvium in the hollows has also assisted this process. As a result the quality of deposit survival at Beckford ranged from poor, where higher areas of the terrace had been truncated, to good where hollows had become infilled, protecting prehistoric levels from later ploughing, and burying them beneath up to 1.50m of later deposits. The areas of deeper stratigraphy are clearly visible on the aerial photograph, areas producing the poorest cropmarks containing the best preserved archaeological deposits. Preservation of artefacts and of bone was also extremely good.

Since all of the site was well drained its potential for preservation of environmental evidence was initially not thought to be high. Some prospecting in the vicinity of the excavation in 1979 did however locate peaty deposits along the edge of the flood plain, which enormously improved the potential for reconstructing the contemporary environment.

The quality of preservation at Beckford has enabled the study of important aspects of later prehistoric lowland settlement. Of particular value are:

- the stratigraphic sequence from late bronze/early iron age - middle iron age - late iron age - early Roman.

- the definition of a ceramic sequence through the above phases.

- the preservation of structural detail including occupation surfaces, with hearths and ovens, inside and external to buildings.

- the environmental sequence. Evidence from the adjacent flood plain provided a sequence from c. 1800 bc to ad 940.

The methods of recording carried out on site took two main forms:

i) Salvage recording. In these areas the site was stripped to the top of the gravel by the quarry company using a box scraper. All soil removal was observed and features were recorded in the normal way except that planning was undertaken only at a scale of 1:100. Very few features were excavated but finds were collected as the features were cut through by machine.

ii) Area excavation. In these areas topsoil was stripped by machine (JCB IIIc) under archaeological control or by hand in areas of particular sensitivity. The latter process also enabled collection of finds from certain areas of topsoil which allowed the proportions of material therein to be tested against the underlying features. Detailed and near total excavation was carried out in the normal way, from a high level. Because of the complexity of the archaeology both horizontally and vertically, little understanding would have been gained without the excavation of large areas in plan, from the base of the topsoil down.

Comparison of the results of salvage and area excavation is instructive. In the salvage areas the majority of the features recorded were deep boundary ditches and pits. Small features (such as postholes) and shallow features and layers (such as roundhouse wall trenches and stone surfaces) were rarely recovered although their existence within the area excavations indicated that features of this kind had survived on the site.

In conclusion, from the evidence of Beckford, it is clear that, firstly, assessment of the quality of deposit survival is an essential pre requisite in the selection of cropmark sites for excavation, and secondly that the choice of excavation techniques will determine the level of evidence recovered to the extent that inappropriate techniques will prevent whole chronological periods of activity, or categories of structures from being recovered at all. Disregard of either of these factors will result in the collection of poor quality and unreliable or misleading evidence from damaged sites.

2. Future research directions.

Projects like Beckford and Wasperton now belong to a phase in the history of archaeology. Beckford was selected for excavation on the basis that it was a large area of complex cropmarks. No more detailed research design than this was put forward at the time of its inception, and in terms of excavation strategy total excavation of the site was the desired end. It is unlikely that within the foreseeable future excavation of such sites on a comparable scale will take place in this region again.

Within the Beckford area major themes which still require exploration include the location of pre-iron age settlement, the pattern of settlement and land use over topographical zones other than the gravel terrace (eg the floodplain, hill slope and hill top) during the middle iron age, the location and nature of late iron age settlement and the impetus behind the radical changes in settlement location which took place in this period.

Such themes may however be relevant only to the valleys of the lower Avon and its tributaries. Different directions may be appropriate in other Midland river valleys, and are certainly so further west, in Herefordshire, where knowledge of the later prehistoric settlement pattern is still limited to hillforts.

Defining research objectives leads immediately away from the river gravels to the landscape as a whole, and away from excavation alone to the whole range of survey techniques which are available for the location and analysis of archaeological evidence.

The Beckford settlement lacks comparative material both contemporary with the main periods of occupation, and also from the pre-iron age and post-Roman use of the area. The most successful projects in recent years have been those which are set within a wider research framework, for example in the Thames valley where a wide variety of settlements and field systems in different landscape zones have been examined, allowing exploration of how different parts of the landscape were exploited in each period, and of the interelationship between the various elements in the settlement hierarchy. Progress of this type cannot be made if only one settlement in a valley is excavated, or if only one type of environment - the river gravels - forms the basis of a "research strategy".

While it may be argued that cropmark sites in the river valleys affected by gravel extraction form the element in the rural archaeological landscape most under threat, the evidence from Aston Mill, Kemerton, a scheduled site to the west of Beckford demonstrates the reverse. Like Beckford, Aston Mill is a site known from cropmark evidence (Webster and Hobley 1964). Early photographs of the site show a number of settlement nuclei as well as fields and trackways. Excavations on the site of one enclosure in 1970 and again in 1974 (Reynolds 1971; Hillson 1974) failed however to find any features corresponding to the cropmark. Recent excavations, (Wills and Reynolds 1985) on one of the very complex cropmark areas showed that only the very deepest features had survived. The mass of detail on the early photographs was also absent from photographs taken in the summer of 1984. It appears that ploughing over the 25-30 years between the initial discovery of the site,(and its scheduling as an Ancient Monument) and the excavation provoked by the imminent threat of quarrying, has demoted this site to one of the lowest categories of preservation and therefore of archaeological potential. However, although it was ploughing not quarrying which caused this damage, it was only the threat from quarrying which activated an archaeological response.

It is necessary therefore to widen the basis of archaeological research strategies. Choices about the allocation of scarce resources must not be dominated by the obvious threat to one category of site within one landscape zone. Much of the rural landscape is threatened by agricultural processes, particularly ploughing, but this as yet has received insufficient recognition.

Future approaches to the archaeology of the river gravels should not be site, or type of site, specific, but form part of regional research strategies which will examine the range of landscape zones, initially through survey, and will evaluate the archaeological potential of known sites. This process will enable a more appropriate and informed response to threats; whether preservation, total or partial excavation, or abandonment. The gravels, still less the excavation of gravels sites, cannot be considered in isolation or as a special case.

Hillson 1974 — S. Hillson, Aston Mill Farm, Kemerton, West Midlands Archaeological Newsheet, No. 17, for 1974, 46-48.

Reynolds 1971 — P. J. Reynolds, Aston Mill Farm, Vale of Evesham Historical Society Research Papers, Vol. III, for 1971, 1-10.

Webster and Hobley 1964 — G. A. Webster and B. Hobley, Aerial Reconnaissance over the Warwickshire Avon, The Archaeological Journal Vol. CXXI, for 1964, 1-22.

Wills and Reynolds 1985 — J. Wills and S. Reynolds, Excavations at Aston Mill, Kemerton, 1985, West Midlands Archaeology Vol. 28, for 1985.

Research Strategies for the Warwickshire Avon

Gilles Crawford.

Research on the prehistory of Warwickshire has been dominated by excavations on the river gravels of the Avon and its tributaries. These included sites at Barford, Charlecote, Kings Newnham and Stretton-on-Fosse in the 1960s and 1970s and Wasperton in the 1980s. This situation has arisen as a result of a number of factors:-

1. Sites on gravel subsoils tend to produce good cropmarks, many of which have readily identifiable forms, at least on a basic level.

2. Survey by aerial photography is relatively cheap and the results impressive.

3. The terraces on which the sites occur have been subject to extensive programmes of sand and gravel extraction and, to offset the threat posed by this, sufficient funding has been obtained to 'rescue' the sites. The result of this has been that archaeological survey has been neglected in locations and environments away from the gravels, few sites have been found and fewer examined. This has led to the prehistory of Warwickshire being defined largely in terms of a riverine, gravel-based distribution.

Gravel sites in general and cropmark sites in particular display serious limitations in the amount and quality of recoverable data, due in part to the accelerated destruction of features through modern ploughing methods and also by topsoil stripping prior to gravel extraction. Vertical stratigraphy does not usually survive - where it did occur, for example at Stretton-on-Fosse, Site 4, there was insufficient time or expertise available to exploit it (Gardner, Haldon and Malam 1980.). The truncated surface usually encountered seldom produced evidence for floor levels and the definition of working areas.

In the past, the large cropmark palimpsests were excavated piecemeal, often with large areas separating the sites of excavation. In an effort to avoid this 'keyhole' type of approach, total excavation was attempted at Wasperton where an area of 11 hectares (26.4 acres) was examined. Although the excavations at Wasperton can be judged a success, archaeologists should not allow themselves to become complacent about the levels of data recovery achieved - there is substantial room for improvement. These concern two areas - the excavation itself and the preparations prior to excavation.

At Wasperton the archaeological input depended on the manpower available, the weather conditions and pressure from the quarry operators. Due to these variables, certain areas of the site, including an important part of the Romano-British settlement, could not be examined. Even in areas where sufficient time and manpower were available, the quality of the information gained often did not justify the effort.

Excavations at Wasperton commenced in December 1980, yet planning permission for the extraction had been granted two years previously, followed by preliminary investigations. Had excavation started in early 1979, many of the problems encountered would not have arisen. Stringent conditions were laid down in the planning consent. However, these were regularly and blatantly flouted by the extraction company, without fear of reprisal.

It is easy to be wise after the event, yet the experiences of Wasperton must be utilised if similar situations are to be avoided in the future.

Planning controls must be realistic and must be adhered to by both sides, archaeologists and extractors. Preliminary work should include as much information as possible, such as subsoil changes, depth of overburden etc. Gravel companies always have maps of their concessions which include this type of information. The time available must be utilised to the best effect and delays minimised. Only by the implementation of conditions such as above will the excavation of gravel sites become more satisfactory.

The above illustrates some of the shortcomings associated with the excavation of gravel sites. The effects of these could be minimised if more effort was concentrated on sites on other soils, thereby diminishing the importance of gravel sites. The basic data on which archaeologists in this area work is hopelessly biased towards the river gravels. An extensive programme of research and field survey on other soils and different ecological zones must be carried out. Surveys could be carried out by research students or by personnel attached to archaeological units. Not only would this satisfy the need for new data, it would also go some way to providing work for the units in the future. An integrated approach similar to this has been followed with great success by the Oxford Archaeological Unit for a number of years, and it is time it was adopted in the West Midlands.

Crawford G.M. 1982 West Midlands Archaeology 24
1983 West Midlands Archaeology 25
1984 West Midlands Archaeology 26
1985 West Midlands Archaeology 27

Gardner P.J., Haldon R., Malam J. Prehistoric, Roman and Medieval settlement at Stretton-on-Fosse : excavations and salvage 1971-6, Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society Transactions Vol. 90, 1980, 1-35.

Air photography and crop marks: magic or method?

Rowan Whimster

Archaeological air photography is nothing new. On the Wessex chalklands O.G.S. Crawford learnt how marks in bare ploughsoil and growing crops could reveal buried features in the early 1920s, and it was only a few short years before similar results were being obtained from the gravel terraces of the upper Thames. In those early years aerial reconnaissance quickly earned itself an enviable reputation as a special kind of magic art: one that allowed the initiated to return from a two-hour spin across the countryside with an armful of new henges, cursuses, Roman forts and villas. Suddenly the modern landscape was able to yield up all its buried archaeological secrets and our problems seemed to be solved. True enough, the extraordinary quantity of new information presented some special difficulties (the flood of crop mark evidence from the lowlands of England was in part the trigger for the 'rescue' movement of the early 1970s), but overiding them was a new sense of certainty: if a field contained an archaeological site, the air photographs would show it. They would also tell you which sites deserved to be scheduled and which ones needed to be excavated. In those halcyon days the crop marks provided the site plan and all the excavator had to do was to lay out his trenches and get to work on his chosen sample window.

But it did not last. All too soon, excavators began to realise that the story told by the air photograph would not necessarily tally with the archaeological reality that lay beneath the ploughsoil. Sometimes the crop marks reflected features that seemed to have no physical existence on the ground; more often they failed to portray the full complexity of the site in question. Perhaps most serious of all was the discovery that clear, crisp crop marks all too frequently belonged to the most severely plough-damaged sites with the least surviving stratigraphy. In the upper Thames and on the gravel terraces of Essex and the East Midlands, the lesson was learnt a decade ago. In the West Midlands it has more recently been spelt out at sites like Beckford and Wasperton, where excavators once again found that the picture painted by the air photographs was somehow at odds with what they eventually encountered on the ground.

So what has gone wrong? Is crop mark photography no longer to be trusted as a reliable source of information about the archaeological character and potential of buried sites, or have we simply failed to learn how to handle air photographic evidence in the right way? The latter is almost certainly the case, and the blame can be laid equally at the doors of the aerial photographers and of those who seek to use crop mark information in the field. For far too long communication between the two groups has been woefully inadequate, and the result has been widespread misunderstanding about the uses and limitations of air photographic data. At the heart of the matter is the simple fact that crop marks, like any other form of archaeological evidence, have to be interpreted with the greatest care if they are not to be misleading. To simply look at a handful of photographs, or even at a carefully prepared interpretative plan of crop marks that have been recorded from the air, is not enough. On the contrary, this raw evidence contains exactly the same kinds of distortions and biases that are inherent in any ceramic assemblage or environmental sample. For that reason it requires precisely the same level of close critical scrutiny that is now mandatory for the post-excavation interpretation of those more conventional forms of archaeological evidence.

Our problem can be summed up in a nutshell. Whereas a century of effort has been invested in the development of a sophisticated and powerful array of techniques for handling the products of excavation, work is only just

beginning on the establishment of a comparable methodology for the treatment of air photographic evidence. At present our understanding of the information locked in literally millions of photographs is about as subtle as was our knowledge of Bronze Age pottery in 1900. If we are to harness and exploit the astonishing reservoir of evidence that is already available to us, aerial photographers and field archaeologists must in future work hand-in-hand to forge an entirely new framework of techniques and procedures for handling air photographic information. We have to learn its strengths and its weaknesses, but above all we have to learn how to use it alongside excavation, field-walking and geophysical survey as just one element in a closely integrated armoury of tools for investigating and interpreting Man's historical relationship with the landscape. We may have exploded the myth of air photography as a magic art, but the prospects for the future are no less exciting if we are prepared to open our eyes and see what lies on the horizon.

Policies for Preservation and Recovery: The next step in Gravel Archaeology.

M. Parker Pearson.

The past 15 years in particular have witnessed a dramatic expansion of state funded archaeological excavation on the gravel terraces of England's river valleys. The recovery of information on spatial organisation, land use and other social and economic aspects of human occupation from the later prehistoric to the early medieval periods in this zone can be accomplished more swifly and efficiently than in many other archaeological landscapes. That said, the costs of such exercises are not small; estimated final expenditure on the large area excavations at, for example, Wasperton, Beckford and Catholme are £190,791, £224,682 and £156,856 respectively. All have been running for at least eight years and are indicative of the very large sums of money currently tied up in post-excavation of gravel sites in the Upper and Middle Thames, the Fenland rivers, the Trent and the Severn-Avon valleys. There is a general feeling amongst archaeologists working in this field that, with the post-excavation programmes of many of these projects nearing completion, the time has come for an appraisal of the results of this work. More importantly the future must be considered not only on the basis of reorientated academic priorities but through the active management of these river valley landscapes using the legislative powers of the planning process. The threat of gravel extraction and other forms of development to this aspect of our heritage is certainly not abating but the ground rules are changing. One of the achievements of rescue archaeology on the gravels and elsewhere has been to draw the attention of local authorities, mineral operators and other developers to the historical importance of these landscapes.

Archaeological Policies

In 1983 the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission was given two statutory duties relating to Ancient Monuments; the first was to secure their preservation and the second was to promote the public's enjoyment of them. Also passed on from the Department of the Environment was the opportunity to continue funding rescue archaeology though this was not a statutory obligation. This last clause is indicative of a final last resort when all attempts to secure preservation <u>in situ</u> have failed.

The 1979 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act changed the status of Scheduled Ancient Monuments, sites of historical and archaeological importance which were legally recognised and protected. Instead of permitting their destruction so long as 3 months notice was given, anyone proposing to carry out works on such a site must apply for Scheduled Monument Consent. Increasingly contractors such as mineral operators are contributing towards the costs of archaeological excavation in advance and it is HBMC's aim that developers should make full financial provision for excavation and post-excavation of any such sites which they wish to destroy.

In 1986/1987 the Scheduling Enhancement Programme is expected to start as a five year project to increase the number of SAM's from 13,000 to 60,000. Many hitherto unprotected elements of the archaeological landscape will be included in the schedule and no doubt the river valleys can be expected to be included in that programme of survey, SMR inspection and scheduling.

County structure plans and local district plans also have a major contribution to make and can not only support the Ancient Monument legislation but also lay down conditions relating to other archaeological sites of county or local significance. No longer are access to carry out watching briefs or time to carry out excavation considered to be sufficient conditions to protect a threatened heritage; increasingly local authorities must be satisfied that, through consultation with county archaeologists and HBMC inspectors, adequate provision must be made and resources provided to match the severity of the threat.

Two successful developments along these lines, at different stages of completion, are County Council derived archaeological plans for archaeological policies with relation to mineral extraction in the Upper Thames and Staffordshire Trent valleys (1). The first is completed and has led to a programme of enhanced scheduling and new conditions for mineral operations in areas of archaeological significance, while the second is a preliminary study from which scheduling recommendations are awaited.

These must be the first of many to offer a complete national coverage from county level upwards. The most pressing problem is to identify archaeological areas, quantify the long term threat of gravel and sand extraction to those areas and to devise regional frameworks for research in those landscapes to be destroyed. Only when the implications of county mineral plans have been fully evaluated can the first steps be taken to ensure preservation either <u>in situ</u> or as a paper record after excavation.

1. <u>An Archaeological Strategy for the Upper Thames Gravels in Gloucestershire and Wiltshire</u>, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire County Councils, 1984; <u>Archaeological Sites in the Staffordshire Trent Valley.</u>

Graze-marks in the Sandwell Valley
M.A. Hodder and S. O'Donnell

Part of an 18th-century ha-ha ditch survives as an earthwork to the north of the site of Sandwell Priory and Sandwell Hall. Maps show that the rest of the ditch, to the east, was filled in between 1801 and 1837. The line of the filled-in ditch is visible as a dark mark on aerial photographs taken in 1980 when the field was under grass and used as horse pasture. On the ground the line was visible as a line of closely-cropped grass, in contrast to the longer, rougher sward on either side of it. Mapping of the two types of sward showed that the closely-cropped line corresponded closely to the line observed on the aerial photographs. Detailed monitoring of the activities of horses kept in the field confirmed that the closely-cropped line was being grazed in preference to the longer sward, which tended to be used for defecation. Further mapping of sward types, a year after the first mapping, showed that during this period the closely-cropped area had expanded such that it no longer clearly defined the course of the filled-in ditch.

The feeding habits of horses kept in enclosed fields have been recorded by zoologists. Unlike sheep and cattle, whose grazing and defecation areas tend to be mixed, horses divide their fields into specific areas for each activity and rarely contravene this distinction; however the area for grazing does expand over a period of time. Such division of fields by horses has not previously been related to archaeological features. The observations in the Sandwell Valley suggest that the observation and recording of grazing patterns may be a useful method of locating infilled negative archaeological features in horse pastures, particularly the continuation of linear features visible as earthworks or cropmarks in adjoining fields. This could have particular importance in areas such as the West Midland conurbation in which much of the open space is grassland used for horse pasture. The method now requires testing elsewhere: the authors would be pleased to hear of results obtained.

Archaeological illustration and the A.A.I. & S.

Amanda Balfour.

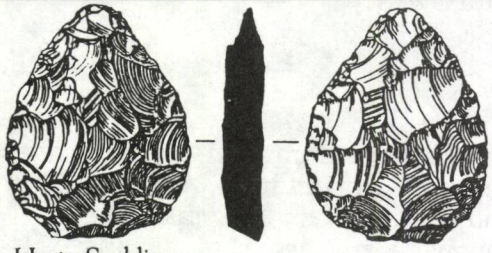
"Archaeological drawings have no need to be repellant and unattractive ... The aesthetics of the thing, the balance and proportions, the relative weights of mass and line, the layout and arrangement ... make the difference between an elegant visual language and one that it insensitive and incompetent."
Stuart Piggott: Archaeological Draughtsmansship, Part I in Antiquity XXXIX.

Since the heyday of the artist in archaeology in the nineteenth century, illustration has become an aspect of the profession that has not been accorded the status it deserves as the fundamental method of recording archaeological evidence. This evidence, being physical, can be most precisely and reliably represented by illustration and all interpretation of archaeological sites, monuments and artefacts will depend upon the quality of that illustrative record. If this work is carried out by personnel who are not adequately trained and experienced then the accuracy and value of the whole record will be reduced most significantly or even entirely lost.

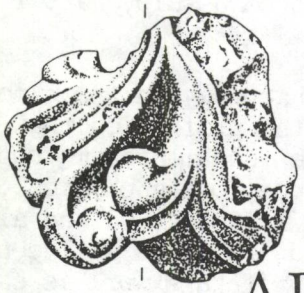
When Stuart Piggott wrote his article in 1965, the importance of the visual record was not always fully appreciated. Gradually, that situation has been improving, but there are still many archaeologists who do not regard the professional production of high quality illustrations as an intrinsic part of the excavation and post-excavation process in the same way as, for instance, the pottery report or bone analysis, for which a specialist is without question required. There are those who still do their own illustrations and state this with pride, as they produce a portfolio of drawings that are inept, inaccurate and insensitive, as well as being unlikely either to reduce or print. When arguing this point with archaeologists, the writer has been told, "Ah, yes, but I've seen many good drawings that don't convey the archaeological information." Surely it is obvious that any archaeological illustration that does not convey the archaeological information fails in its primary purpose and is therefore not a good drawing?

Archaeological illustration is not merely a case of copying photographically. Illustrations should be selective observations of the relevant information, and in the case of finds illustration, this involves a knowledge of the artefacts' construction, material and decay. As well as an understanding of the individual site, building or artefact, an illustrator should also have a knowledge of layout, typography, printing processes and working for reduction. All this is, of course, required in addition to an ability to draw accurately, and within the conventions currently accepted by the archaeological world.

Archaeological illustration is therefore a highly skilled specialism which should be recognised as such by all who use illustrations, and it was for this reason that the Association of Archaeological Illustrators and Surveyors was formed in 1978. Its aims are to establish a professional status, to raise standards and to promote an awareness of the profession, as well as to disseminate information connected with the theory or practice of archaeological illustration and surveying. This it does through the publication of technical papers, 'data sheets' and newsletters, as well as through conferences and day schools. The Association has



Hoste Spalding
flaked flint point

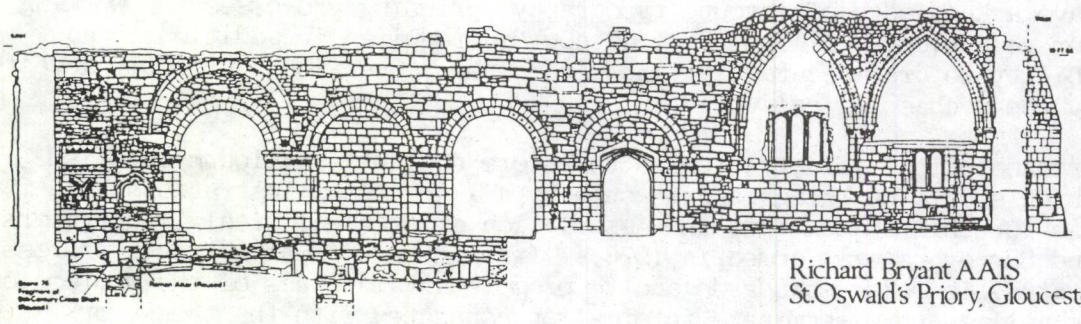


Amanda Balfour
medieval masonry

AA I&S

ASSOCIATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL ILLUSTRATORS AND SURVEYORS

John Pearson AAIS
Bronze Age metalworkers



Richard Bryant AAIS
St.Oswald's Priory, Gloucester

also played a major part in the formation of a B/TEC Higher Diploma course at Swindon College of Art, which includes archaeological illustration.

Students and those who work in other archaeological disciplines are eligible for Associate membership, and there are two classes of membership for practising illustrators and surveyors. If you would like to know more about the Association, please contact Amanda Balfour, Honorary Secretary, Arundel Cottages, 30 Northfield Road, Harborne, Birmingham, B17 OSU.

Notes for Contributors

1. During the production of West Midlands Archaeology Vol. 28 it became clear that, given the financial resources available to CBA Regional Group 8, it would be impossible to publish at their submitted length all of the contributions received. A number of contributors were therefore requested to shorten their papers and, where this was not acceptable, it has unfortunately not been possible to include the papers in this volume. The committee regrets that it was necessary to make such a change in policy halfway through the production process.

   For future volumes of West Midlands Archaeology a number of alterations to the format and in the length of articles have been agreed by the committee. It is desirable that the publication should reflect and give notice of the full range of archaeological work being undertaken in the region but it is not intended as a vehicle for the publication of full interim or final reports.

   West Midlands Archaeology Vol. 29 will therefore consist of two sections. Part 1 will include all material previously in Parts 1 and 2, and is intended to contain short reports on work carried out during the year. Part 2 (previously Part 3) will continue to consist of thematic or discursive papers which would not easily find another publication outlet.

2. Text should be typed, double spaced, on one side only of A 4 paper.

3. References should be in the Harvard style, viz:

   (a) in the text: the name of the author(s), the date of publication and the page number(s) should be listed in parenthesis for books and periodicals, for example, (James 1982, 39) or (Pevsner 1968, 236).

   (b) at the end of the article: the full bibliographical references should be listed in alphabetical order by names of author(s), giving, for periodicals, the name of the authors, the title of the article, the title of the journal (underlined) with volume number, the place and date of publication, the page number(s) and, for books, the name of the author(s), the title of the book (underlined), the place and date of publication.

   James 1982 Heather James, Excavations in Wootton Wawen churchyard, 1974 and 1975, Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society Transactions for 1980, Vol. 90, Birmingham 1982, 37-48.

   Pevsner 1968 N. Pevsner, The Buildings of England Worcestershire, Harmondsworth 1968.

4. Figures should not be titled but a caption should be supplied, typed on a separate piece of paper. Figures should preferably be pre-reduced to A 4 size leaving a good margin.

5. Plans and sections should include a north point or other appropriate indicator of compass direction. All figures should include a metric bar scale.

6. National Grid References (eight figures), County Sites and Monuments Record primary record numbers, the current and intended place of

deposition for artefacts and site records (with accession numbers where available) should be included for all sites reported.

7. Contributors should list their own name(s) and title(s) and addresses, together with the names and addresses of organisations, societies etc., who are involved in sponsoring or carrying out work reported.

8. The maximum length for contributions to Part 1 is 1,000 words and 3 figures for major projects, and 250 words and 1 figure for small projects or individual finds. The maximum length for contributions to Part 2 is 1,000 words and 1 figure.

9. Papers for consideration for publication in West Midlands Archaeology Vol. 29 must be received by the Editor by 1st January 1987. Late contributions cannot be guaranteed inclusion!

The Editor,
West Midlands Archaeology,
c/o Archaeology Department,
Hereford and Worcester County Council,
Tetbury Drive,
Warndon,
Worcester WR4 9LS.

DIRECTORY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUPS AND INSTITUTIONS

1. County Sites and Monuments Records and Archaeological Units

Alcester Excavation Project
Warwickshire County Council
The Old Fire Station
52 Stratford Road
Alcester
Warwickshire

Tel: 0789 764908

Stephen Cracknell, Supervisor

Birmingham University Field
Archaeology Unit
Minerals Engineering Building
PO Box 363
Edgbaston
Birmingham
B15 2TT

Tel: 021 472 3025

M O H Carver, Director;
A Brooker-Carey, Manager

Coventry City Museum Field
Archaeology Department
Herbert Art Gallery
Jordan Well
Coventry

Tel: 0203 25555

Margaret Rylatt, Field Archaeologist;
Mike Stokes, Assistant Field Archaeologist

Dudley Castle Archaeological Project
2 The Broadway
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 4QB

Tel: 0384 235305

Peter Boland, Director

City of Hereford Archaeology Committee
Shirehall Forecourt
Town Hall
St Owen Street
Hereford

Tel: 0432 268121 ext 310

Ron Shoesmith, Director

Hereford and Worcester County Council
Archaeology Department
Tetbury Drive
Warndon
Worcester
WR4 9LS

Tel: 0905 58608

County Archaeological Officer;
Archaeological Field Officer;
S G Woodiwiss, Droitwich Archaeological Officer

Institute of Industrial Archaeology
Ironbridge Gorge Museum
Ironbridge
Telford
Shropshire

Tel: 095245 2751 ext 35

Raphael Isserlin, Field Archaeologist

Sandwell Valley Archaeological Project
Metropolitan Borough of Sandwell
PO Box 42
Wigmore
Pennyhill Lane
West Bromwich
West Midlands B71 3RZ

Tel: 021 525 7066

Mike Hodder, Director

Shropshire County Council
Planning Department
Shire Hall
Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury

Tel: 0742 252563

Mike Watson, County Archaeological Officer
Penny Ward, SMR Officer

Staffordshire County Council
Planning Department
Martin Street
Stafford
ST16 2LE

Tel: 0785 3121 ext 7395

R A Meeson, SMR Officer

Stafford Archaeological Project
(Birmingham University Field
Archaeology Unit)
8 St Marys Grove
Stafford

Tel: 0785 59030

John Cane, Supervisor

Stafford Castle Project
Stafford Borough Council
Civic Offices
Riverside
Stafford
ST16 3AQ

Tel: 0785 3181 ext 286

Charles Hill, Director

Trent and Peak Archaeological Trust
Archaeology Department
University of Nottingham
Beeston
Nottingham
NG7 2RD

Tel: 0602 506101 ext 3396

Graeme Guilbert, Director

Warwickshire County Council
Field Archaeology Office
The Butts
Warwick
CV34 4SS

Tel: 0926 493431 ext 2276

Helen Maclagan, County Field Archaeologist;
Richard Hingley, SMR Officer

Wasperton Archaeological Project
The Village Hall
Wasperton
Warwickshire

Tel: 0926 624537

Gilles Crawford, Supervisor

2. Archaeological Societies and Research Groups

Atherstone Archaeological Society
39 Nursery Road
Atherstone
Warwickshire
CV9 1PN

Keith Scott, Hon Secretary

Birmingham & Warwickshire Archaeological Society
c/o Birmingham and Midland Institute
Margaret Street
Birmingham
B3 3BS

Tel: 021 525 7066 or 021 351 2407

Michael Hodder , Hon Secretary

Border Counties Archaeological Group
Silverdale
14 Kendal Way
Little Acton
Wrexham
Clwyd
U12 8AF

June Jones, Hon Secretary

Droitwich Historical and Archaeological Society
3 Greenbank
Cherry Hill
Droitwich
Worcestershire

Lyn Blewitt, Hon Secretary

Kidderminster and District Archaeology and History Society
18 The Ridgeway
Stourport-on-Severn
Worcestershire

I W Walker, Hon Secretary

Keele and Newcastle Archaeological Group
17 Silver Ridge
Barlaston
Stoke-on-Trent

G T Emery, Hon Secretary

Leamington Archaeological Society
27 Riversleigh Road
Milverton
Leamington Spa
Warwickshire

G F Deely, Hon Secretary

North Staffordshire Journal of Field Studies
Department of Chemistry
North Staffordshire Polytechnic
College Road
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire
ST5 5BG

C J Harrison, Editor

Rugby Archaeological Society
7 Rugby Road
Catthorpe
Lutterworth
Leicestershire

Jack Lucas, Chairman

Shropshire Archaeological Society
Much Wenlock Museum, Much Wenlock
Shropshire
TF 13 6HR

Yvette Staelens, Hon Secretary

Solihull Archaeological Group
149 Hill Village Road
Four Oaks
Sutton Coldfield
Birmingham
West Midlands

Mrs M Dunlery, Hon Secretary

South Staffordshire Archaeological and Historical Society
16 Falna Crescent
Tamworth
Staffordshire
B79 8JS

R A Meeson, Hon Secretary

South Worcestershire Archaeological Group
4 Orchard Close
Ryall
Upton-on-Severn
Worcestershire

Mrs A Richards, Hon Secretary

Stafford and Mid Staffordshire Archaeology Society
c/o Stafford Castle Project
Civic Offices
Riverside
Stafford

Charles Hill, Hon Secretary

Staffordshire Archaeological Research Association
361 Stone Road
Trentham
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire

Mrs P Jones, Hon Secretary

Stoke-on-Trent Museum Archaeological Society
10 Washerwall Road
Werrington
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire

Anne Roberts, Hon Secretary

Stour and Smestow Archaeological Society
Rockmount
Kinver
Staffordshire

L E King, Hon Secretary

Telford Archaeological and Historical Society
18 Cherrington
Stirchley
Telford

Miss M Sumnall, Hon Secretary

Tong Archaeological Group
5 Pool Rise
Springfield
Shrewsbury

Alan Wharton, Hon Secretary

Vale of Evesham Historical Society
28 Cowl Street
Evesham
Worcestershire

J Legelli, Hon Secretary

Walsall Local History Society
Central Library
Lichfield Street
Walsall
WS1 1TR

D J Guy, Hon Secretary

Whitchurch Area Archaeological Group
21 Bathfields Crescent
Whitchurch
Shropshire

Mrs M James, Hon Secretary

Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club
40 Stanhope Street
Hereford

S M Kendrick, Hon Secretary

Worcester and District Industrial Archaeology & Local History Society
Tall Trees
Old Hill
Flyford Flavell
Worcestershire

Tony Jeffs, Hon Secretary

Worcestershire Archaeological Society
91 Hallow Road
Worcester

Mrs Gwen Grice, Hon Secretary

3. Museums

Avoncroft Museum of Buildings
Stoke Heath
Bromsgrove
B60 4JR

Tel: 0527 31363

Michael G L Thomas, Director

Department of Archaeology and Ethnography
Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery
Chamberlain Square
Birmingham
B3 3DH

Tel: 021 235 2834

Jane Peirson Jones, Keeper

Herbert Art Gallery and Museum
Jordan Well
Coventry

Tel: 0203 25555

Jenny Mattingly, Senior Keeper of Social History

Hereford City Museum and Art Gallery
Broad Street
Hereford
HR4 9AU

Tel: 0432 268121 ext 207 and 334

Miss A E Sandford, Curator

Hereford and Worcester County Museum
Hartlebury Castle
Hartlebury
Nr Kidderminster
DY11 7XZ

Tel: 0299 250416

George Shearer, County Museum Officer

Ironbridge Gorge Museum
Ironbridge
Telford
Shropshire

Tel: 095245 3522

Stuart B Smith, Director

Much Wenlock Museum
High Street
Much Wenlock
Shropshire

Tel: 0952 727773

Yvette Staelens, Assistant Keeper

Nuneaton Museum and Art Gallery
Riversley Park
Nuneaton
CV11 5TU

Tel: 0203 326211

Anne Robson, Curator

Rowley's House Museum
Barker Street
Shrewsbury
SY1 1QT

Tel: 0743 61196

Bruce Bennison, Keeper of Archaeology

Stoke-on-Trent City Museum & Art Gallery
Bethesda Street, Hanley
Stoke-on-Trent
ST1 3DW

Tel: 0782 273173

C F Hawke-Smith, Keeper of Archaeology
D Barker, Assistant Keeper

The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust
The Shakespeare Centre
Henley Street
Stratford-upon-Avon

Tel: 0789 204016

Major P Gardner, Assistant

Tamworth Castle Museum
Tamworth
Staffordshire

Tel: 0827 4222 ext 389

Miss E Lloyd, Curator

Warwickshire County Museum
Market Place
Warwick
CV34 4SA

Tel: 0926 493431 ext 2481

John Pickin, Keeper of Archaeology

Wolverhampton Art Gallery
Lichfield Street
Wolverhampton
WV1 1DU

Tel: 0902 24549

Peter Vigurs, Curator

Worcester City Museum Service
City Museum and Art Gallery
Foregate Street
Worcester
WR1 1DT

Tel: 0905 25371

Tim Bridges, Keeper of Archaeology

4. Educational Establishments

University of Birmingham
PO Box 363
Edgbaston
Birmingham
B15 2TT

Tel: 021 472 1301

Department of Ancient History & Archaeology
(Laurence Barfield; Simon Esmonde-Cleary)
Department of Extramural Studies
(Philip Barker)
Department of Geography (Paul Buckland;
Della Hooke; Terry Slater)
School of History (Stephen Bassett;
Christopher Dyer)
Archaeology Laboratory (James Greig;
Lisa Moffet)
Computer Centre (Susan Laflin)

Department of Adult and Continuing Education
The University
Keele
Staffordshire
ST5 5BG

Tel: 0782 625116

David Wilson

Research Centre for Computer Archaeology
Computer Department
North Staffordshire Polytechnic
Blackheath Lane
Stafford
ST18 0AD

Tel: 0785 53511

John Wilcock

5. National Organisations

Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England
Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments, HBMCE
Fortress House
23 Savile Row
London
W1X 2HE

Tel: 01 734 6010

Central Excavation Unit, HBMCE
Fort Cumberland
Fort Cumberland Road
Portsmouth
Hampshire
PO4 9LD

Tel: 0705 817472

Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England)
National Monuments Record
Fortress House
23 Savile Row
London
W1X 1AB

National Monuments Record (Keele Office)
Chancellor's Building
The University
Keele
Staffordshire
ST5 5BG

Tel: 0782 62111

Paul Everson

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Soil Survey of England and Wales
Woodthorne
Wolverhampton
West Midlands
WV6 8TQ

Tel: 0902 754190

J M Hodgson

Council for British Archaeology
112 Kennington Road
London
SE11 6RE

Tel: 01 582 0494

H F Cleere, Director

Council for British Archaeology
Regional Group 8

Chairman:	P A Barker,4 St Georges Square, Worcester WR1 1HX
Hon Secretary:	John Pickin,Warwickshire Museum,Market Place, Warwick CV34 4SA
Hon Editor:	Jan Wills, c/o Archaeology Department, Hereford and Worcester County Council, Tetbury Drive, Warndon, Worcester WR4 9LS
Hon Treasurer:	J G Perry, 19 Sherwood Court, Robin Hood Lane, Sutton, Surrey
Hon Assistant Treasurer:	M A Cooper, BUFAU, University of Birmingham, PO Box 363, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT

Diocesan Archaeological Consultants

Birmingham	-	Michael Hodder
Chester	-	Richard Turner
Coventry	-	Paul Gosling
Derby	-	Pat Strange
Gloucester	-	Michael Hare
Hereford	-	Ron Shoesmith
Lichfield	-	Martin Carver
Worcester	-	Jan Roberts

CBA REGIONAL GROUP 8: MEMBERSHIP LIST 1985

MEMBERSHIP NO	
100	Achenit J.V.
101	Aldhous R.
102	Alexander M. Mrs
103	Arthur P.R. Mr.
105	Ayto J. Mr.
106	Badderley C. Mr.
107	Baker C. Mrs
108	Ball F. Mr.
110	Ball M.A. Mrs
109	Ball N. Mrs
111	Barker, P.A. Mr.
112	Barnett A. Mr.
113	Barratt L. Mrs
114	Barrett G.F. Dr.
115	Bassett R.J. Mr.
116	Bassett S. Mr.
117	Bayliss P. Mrs
118	Bishop G.L.
119	Blakemore A.K. Mr.
120	Bond C.J.
121	Booth P. Mr.
122	Briggs A.J.
123	Brown D.J.
124	Brown M.M. Miss
125	Brown R.H.
126	Buckland P. Dr.
127	Burl H.A.W. Dr.
128	Burnett W.E. Mrs
129	Burnham B. Dr.
130	Burton P.R.
131	Carver M.O.H. Mr.
132	Cave L.F. Mr.
133	Clark C.E. Miss
134	Clarke T.R.
135	Cleverdon M.F. Miss
136	Clift E. Mrs
137	Cole J. Mr.
138	Cooper J. Mrs
139	Cooper M.A. Mr.
140	Cooper S.N. Mr.
141	Coplestone-Crow B. Mr.
142	Cox D.C. Dr.
143	Davis B.T. Dr.
144	Davis D.C.
145	Davis E. Mrs.
146	Deakin M.
147	Dean J.R.
148	Deeley R.E. Mr.
149	Demidowicz G. Mr.
150	Downes S. Mrs
151	Dyer C. Dr.
152	Ecclestone J. Mr.
153	England T. Mr.
154	Esmonde-Cleary A.S. Dr.
155	Faiers J.E. Mrs
156	Farrar J.W. Mr.
157	Finnemore T.J. Mr.
158	Fisher F.J. Dr.
159	Ford A.T. Mr.
160	Foster P.W. Mr.

MEMBERSHIP NO	
161	Fowler R. Mr.
162	Fox F.E. Mrs
163	Frazer K.E. Miss
164	Freeman P.W.M. Mr.
165	Gibson A. Mr.
166	Ginley B. Mrs
167	Gobbet M. Mrs
168	Godfrey-Merrick J. Miss
169	Goodburn R. Mr.
170	Goodwin P. Dr.
171	Gordon H. & B.
172	Gough P.M. Dr.
363	Gough W.B. Mr.
173	Gould J. Mr.
174	Greig J. Dr.
175	Griffin A.G. Mr.
176	Groves H. Mrs
178	Guest M. Mr.
179	Hall A. Miss
180	Hancock S. Miss
181	Handley P. Miss
182	Harper R.L. Mrs
183	Harrison M. Mrs
186	Hayfield C. Mr.
184	Hazelgrove S. Mrs
187	Heyes J.T. Rev.
188	Hildred D.W. Mr.
189	Hill E.C. Mr.
190	Hill T.G. Mr.
191	Hodder M. Mr.
192	Hooke D. Dr.
193	Houghton E. Mr.
194	Hunt J. Mr.
195	Hunt N. Mr.
196	Hutty B. Mr.
197	Ingle A.B. Mr.
198	Jerromes R. Mr.
199	Johnson F.B. Mr.
200	Jones J.I. Miss
201	Kenyon J.R. Mr.
202	King J.W. Mrs
203	Knowles E.M. Mrs
204	Laflin S.
205	Lax E. Mr.
206	Lears C. Mr.
207	Loughlin M. Mr.
209	Lowther N.I. Mr.
210	Maclagan H. Miss
211	Malam J. Mr.
212	Marshall C.J.
213	McCabe I. Mr.
214	McCaughan D. Mrs.
215	McEwan K.J.B. Dr.
216	Meeson R.A. Mr.
217	Metcalfe J.E.P. Mr.
218	Middleton J.C. Miss
220	Mitchell A. Miss
221	Moffett L.C. Miss
222	Moreham M. Mrs
223	Morgan P. Mr.

MEMBERSHIP NO

224 Mutter C. Miss
225 Nelson S.M. Mrs
226 Noakes J. Mr.
227 Normansell J.L.M. Mr.
365 Paton L.F. Miss
231 Patrick J. Miss
232 Peacock M.A. Mrs
233 Pearce M.J. Mr.
235 Peirson Jones J. Miss
236 Penlington G.N. Dr.
237 Perry J. Mr.
238 Pickering J. Mr.
239 Pickin J. Mr.
240 Pollock H. Mrs
241 Porter S.L. Mr.
242 Potts C.M. Miss
243 Powell F. Mr.
245 Pratt D. Mr.
246 Price P.A.
248 Pye W.R. Mr.
249 Radcliffe F. Rev.
250 Rawes B. Mr.
251 Reay A.M. Miss
252 Richards D.
253 Richards M. Mrs
254 Richards W.P.
256 Roe A. Miss
257 Round B. Mr.
258 Royle C. Miss
259 Ruffle R.N. Mr.
261 Salway P. Dr.
263 Scott K. Mr.
265 Shayler R.C.
266 Sheasby H.E. Mr.
267 Shields J. Mr.
268 Shotton F.W. Prof.
269 Simpson A.P. Mr.
270 Sims-Williams P. Mr.
271 Slater T.R. Mr.
272 Smith D.M. Mrs
273 Smith E.W. Miss

MEMBERSHIP NO

274 Smith L.
275 Smith R.H.L. Miss
276 Snowdon C.A. Mrs
277 Stanford S.C. Mr.
278 Staples L. Mrs
279 Stead E.P. Mrs
280 Stokes M.A. Mr.
281 Sturgess J.A. Miss
284 Swindells N. Mr.
285 Symons D. Mr.
286 Taylor D.B. Mr.
287 Thom D.M. Mr.
288 Timmins E.W.
290 Torvell J. & D.
291 Trollope K. Miss
364 Trueman M. Mr.
292 Tulloch J. Mrs
293 Twist F.H. Mr.
294 Tyler A. Dr.
296 Wallsgrove S.G.
297 Walter M.A. Miss
298 Walters D. Mr.
300 Wadrop M.A. Mrs
301 Waters P.L.
302 Watson C.A. Dr.
303 Watson J.B. Mr.
304 Watson M.D. Mr.
305 Webb M. Mrs
307 Webster S.J.
306 Webster O.B.E. G. Dr.
308 Westwood C.W.
309 Whattam G.H. Mr.
310 Whiston F.S.A. J.W.
312 Whitehead D. Mr.
313 Whittaker R.
314 Wilkes D. Mrs
315 Wilkins G. Mr.
316 Williams P. Mrs
317 Wilson D. Mr.
318 Wilson J.M. Dr.
319 Worton E.J. Mr.
320 Yarnell T.R. Mr.

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS 1985

323 Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society
324 Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit
325 Border Counties Archaeological Group
326 Chelmsley Local History Society
327 Coventry and District Archaeological Society
328 Coventry Museums
329 Droitwich History and Archaeology Society
331 Ironbridge Gorge Museum
332 Kenilworth History and Archaeology Society
333 Kidderminster and District Archaeological and History Society
334 Landor Society
335 Leamington Archaeology Group

336 Leek and District Field Club
337 Ludlow Historical Research Group
338 Much Wenlock Museum
340 RCHM National Monuments Record
341 Rowleys House Museum
342 Rugby Archaeological Society
343 Sandwell Valley Archaeological Society
344 Shropshire Archaeological Society
345 Solihull Archaeology Society
346 South Staffs Archaeological and History Society
347 S Worcestershire Archaeological Group
350 Stoke-on-Trent City Museum and Art Gallery
351 Sutton Coldfield Archaeological Society
352 Telford Historical and Archaeological Society
353 Tong Archaeological Group
354 Warwickshire County Museum
355 Warwickshire County Record Office
358 Whitchurch Area Archaeological Group
359 Wolverhampton Art Gallery and Museum
360 Woolhope Naturalists Field Club
361 Worcester City Museum
362 Wychbury Archaeological Society